



OSAMU
TEZUKA

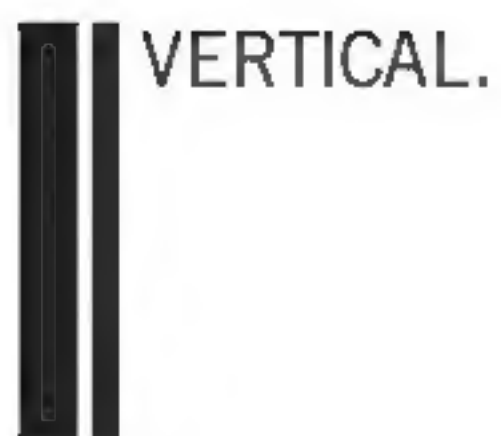
手塚治虫



APOLLO'S SONG

APOLLO'S SONG

OSAMU TEZUKA



VERTICAL.

**TRANSLATION—CAMILLIA NIEH
PRODUCTION—HIROKO MIZUNO
SHINOBU SATO
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION—GLEN ISIP**

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**THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION.
THE ARTWORK OF THE ORIGINAL HAS BEEN PRODUCED AS A MIRROR-IMAGE
IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

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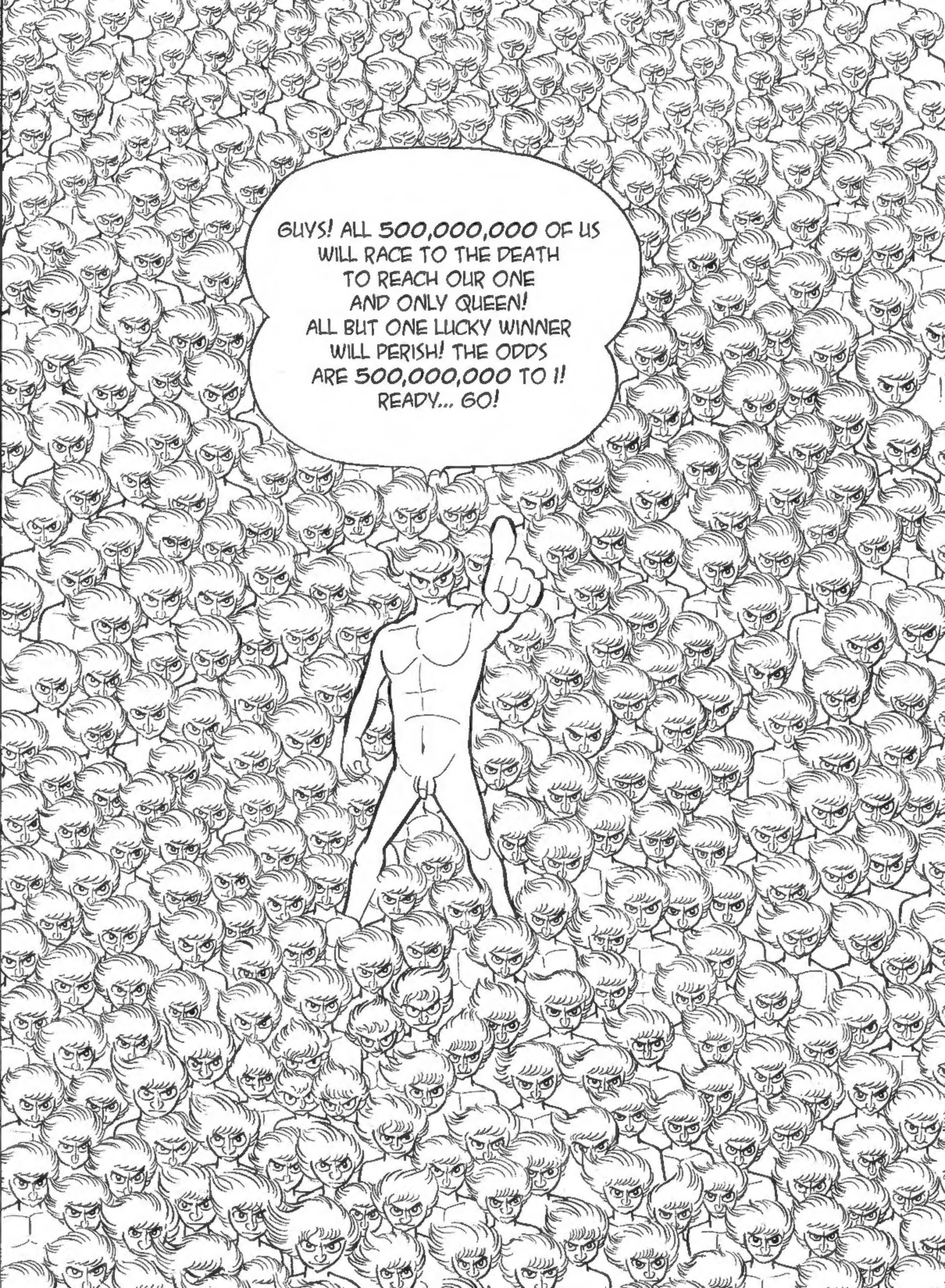
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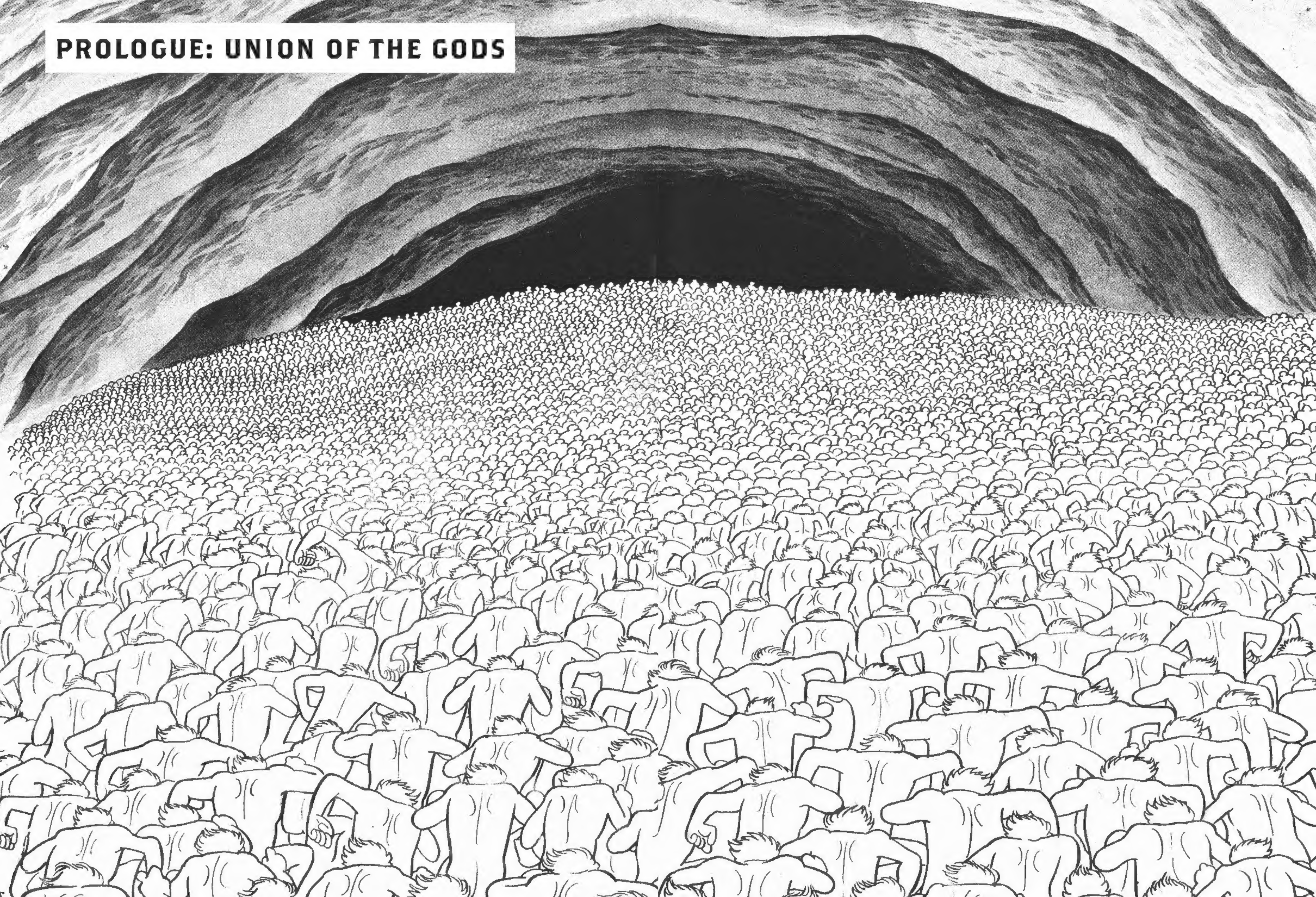
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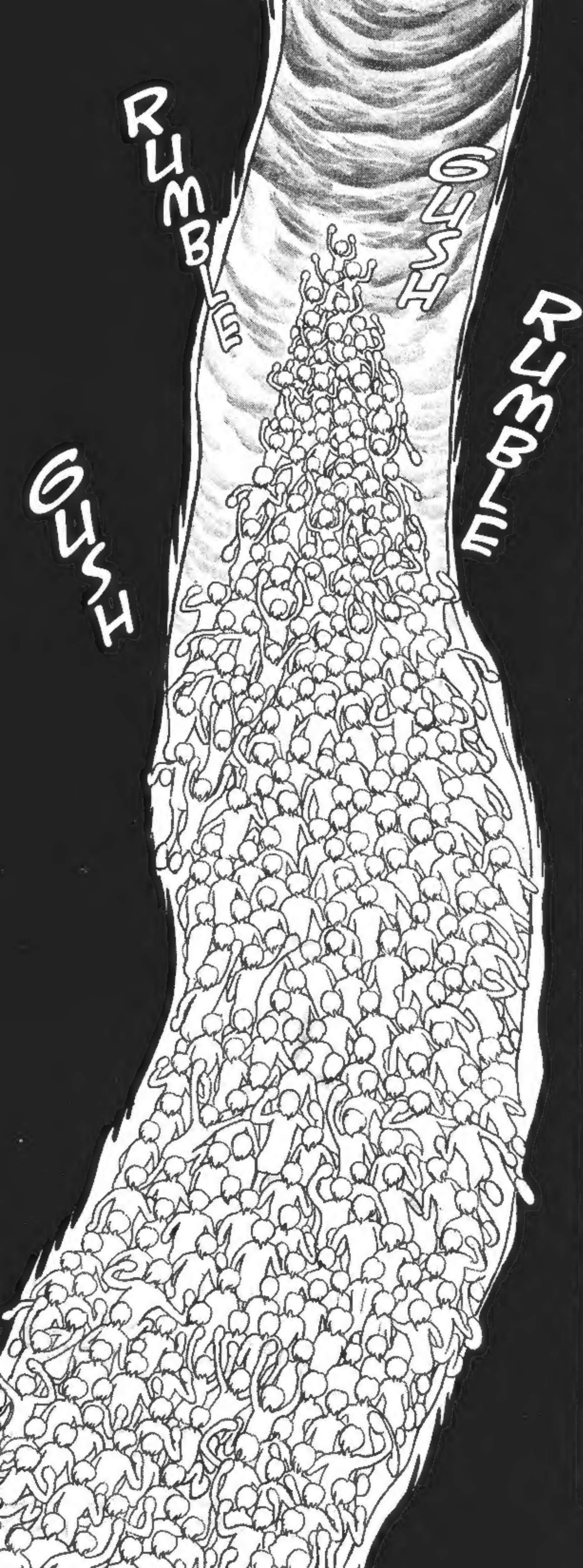
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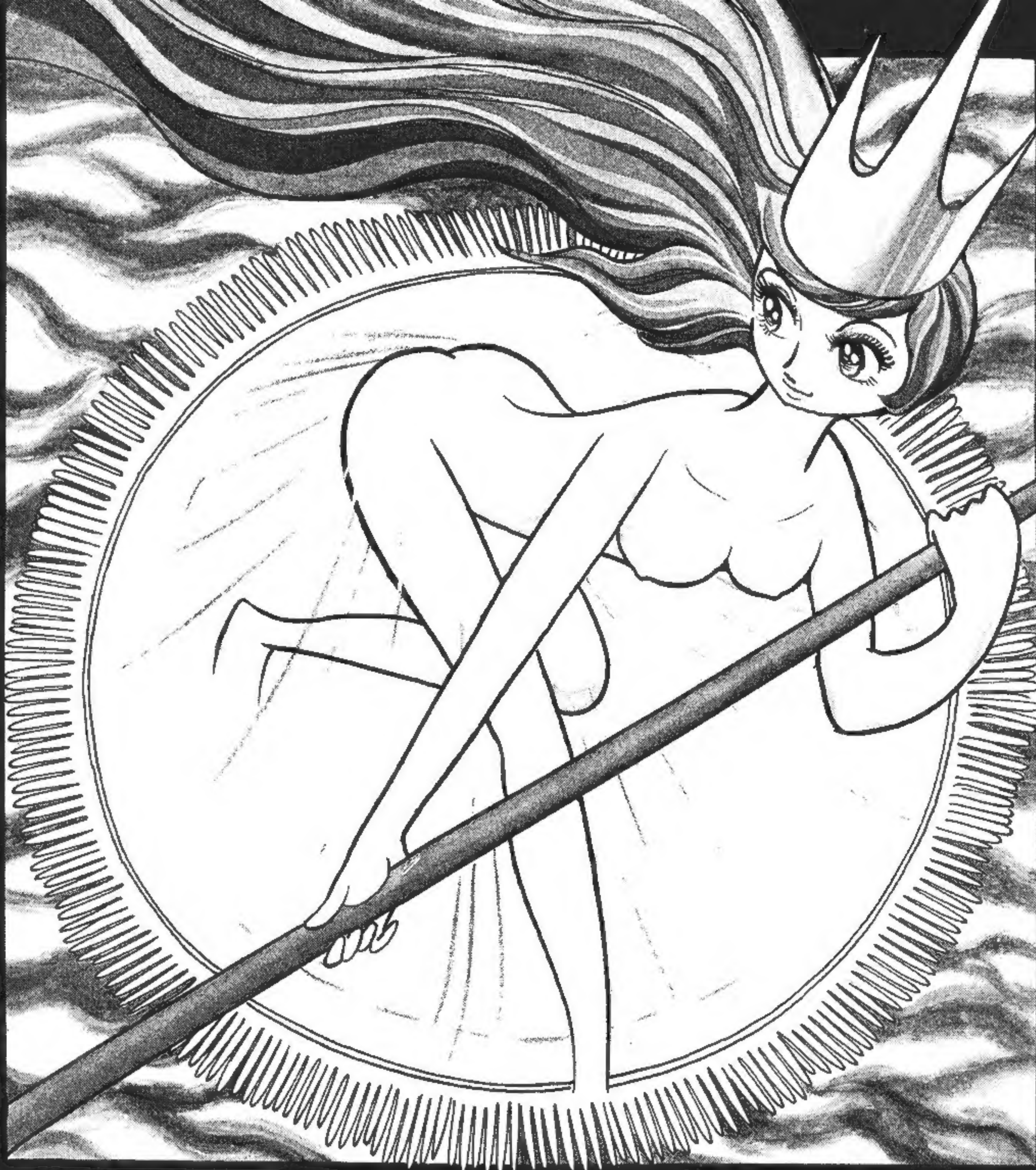
The image is a black and white line drawing. It depicts a massive, tightly packed crowd of men. Every man in the crowd has the same features: a large, bushy mustache, a high forehead, and a stern, angry expression with furrowed brows. They are all wearing simple, short-sleeved shirts. In the center of the crowd, a single man stands out. He is shirtless and is pointing his right index finger straight up towards the top of the frame. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned above him, containing text. The background is completely filled with the heads and shoulders of the crowd, creating a sense of overwhelming numbers.

GUYS! ALL 500,000,000 OF US
WILL RACE TO THE DEATH
TO REACH OUR ONE
AND ONLY QUEEN!
ALL BUT ONE LUCKY WINNER
WILL PERISH! THE ODDS
ARE 500,000,000 TO 1!
READY... GO!

PROLOGUE: UNION OF THE GODS







HEY,
OUTTA THE WAY!
I SAW HER FIRST!

YEAH, BUT
WHOEVER GETS
THERE FIRST WINS!

SHUT UP!
YOU ALL CAN
DROP DEAD!

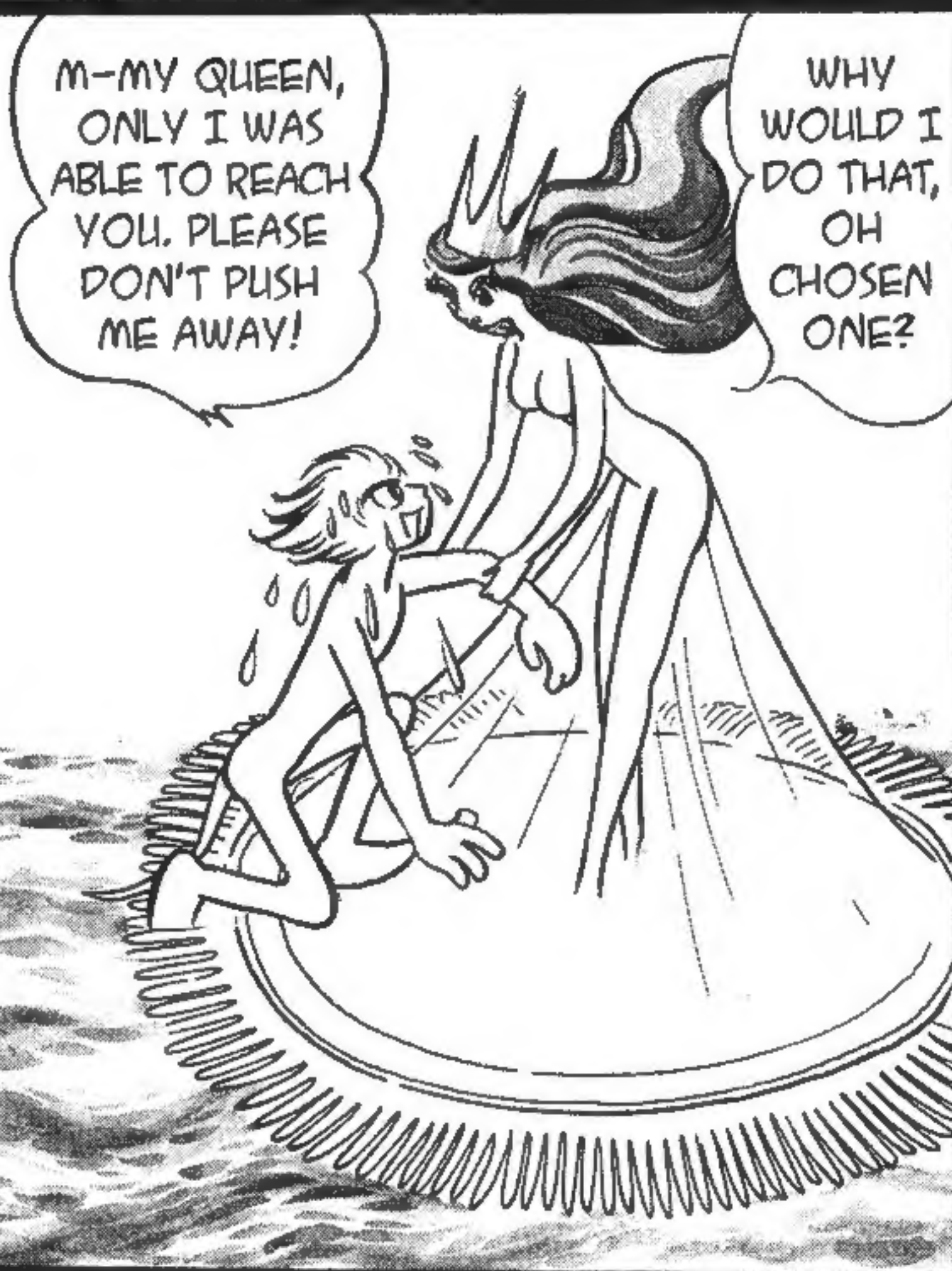




SHE'S
MINE!



YES! I
TOUCHED
HER
FIRST!



M-MY QUEEN,
ONLY I WAS
ABLE TO REACH
YOU. PLEASE
DON'T PUSH
ME AWAY!

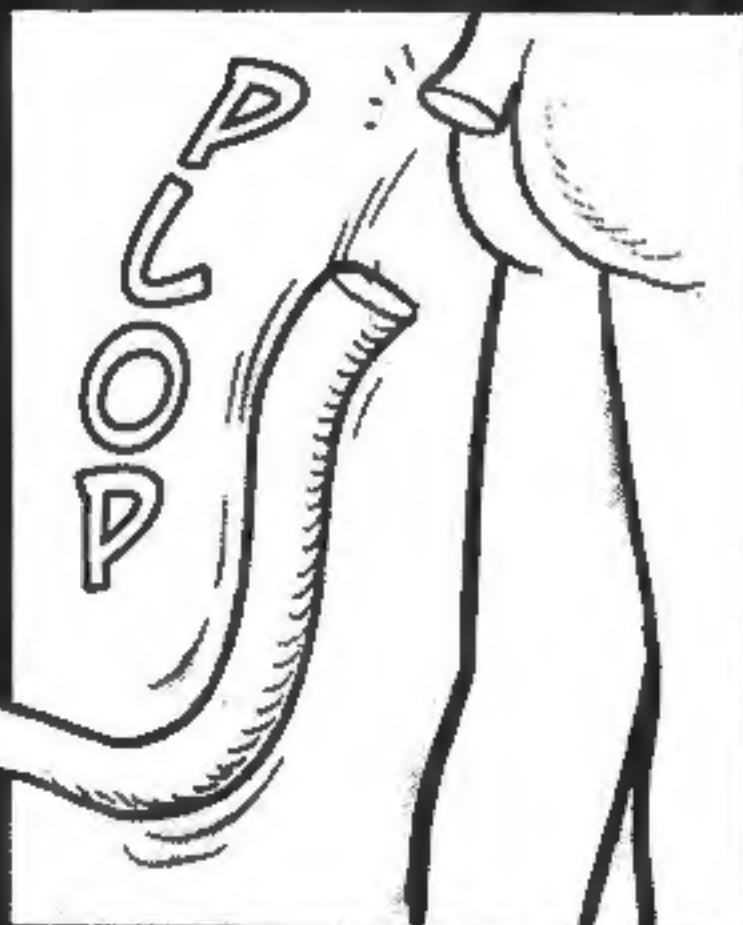
WHY
WOULD I
DO THAT,
OH
CHOSEN
ONE?



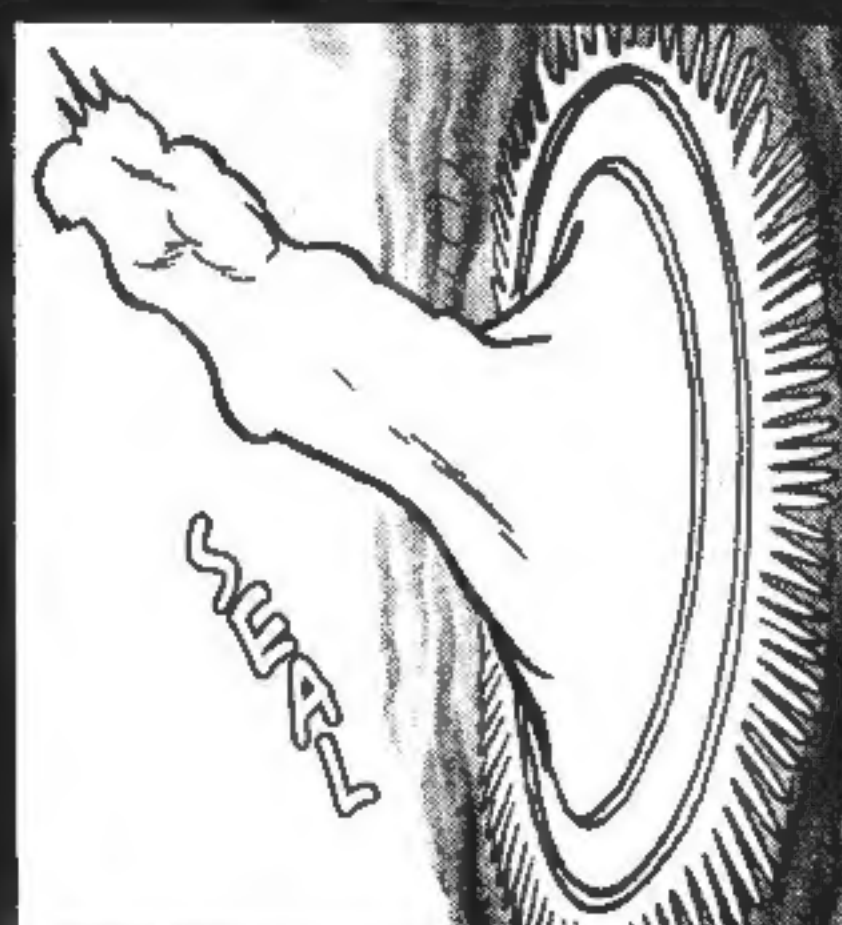
WE'RE ALL
GONNA GET
LEFT BEHIND?

I DON'T
WANNA
DIE!

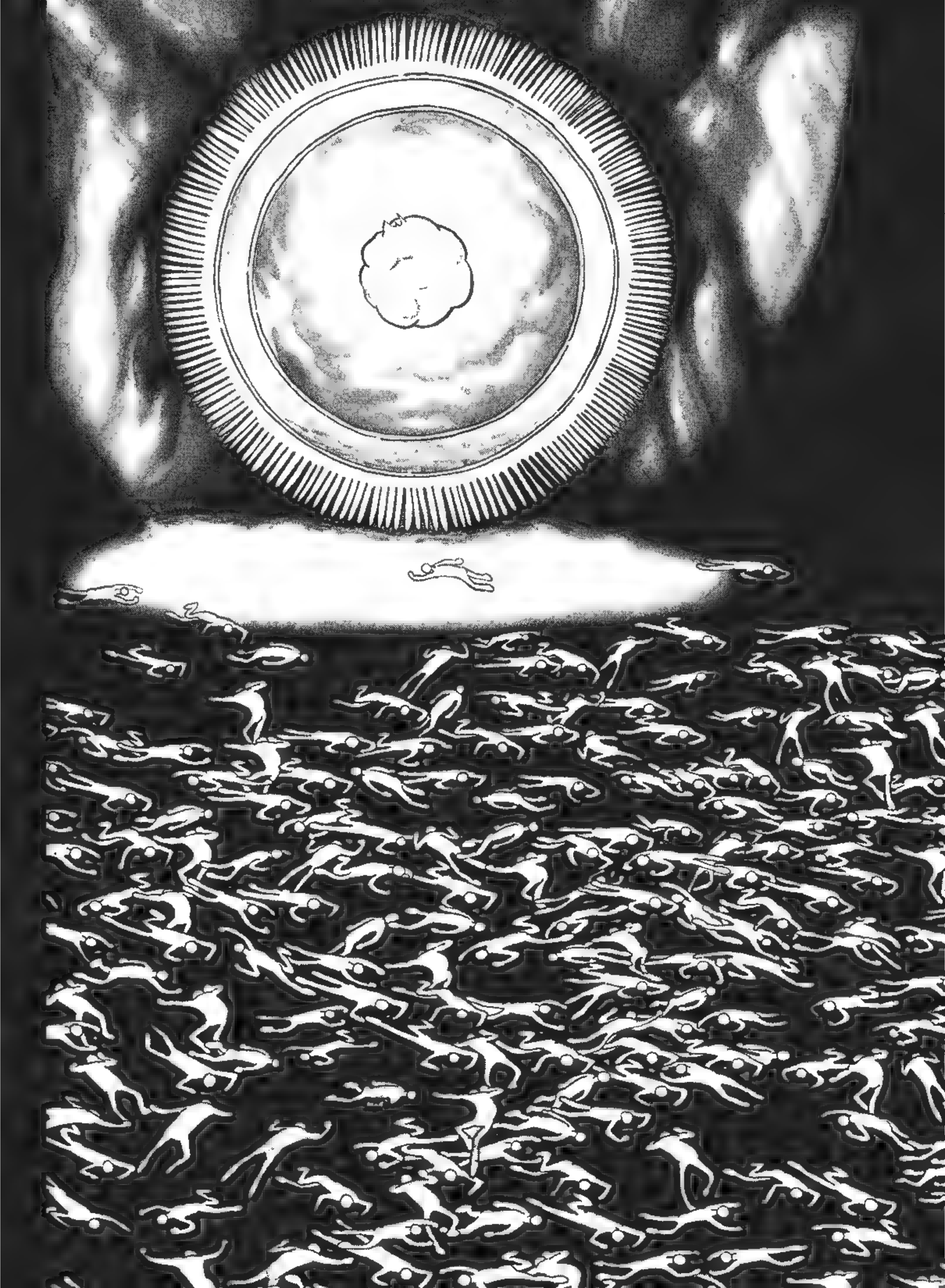
CAN'T YOU
TAKE JUST
ONE MORE?

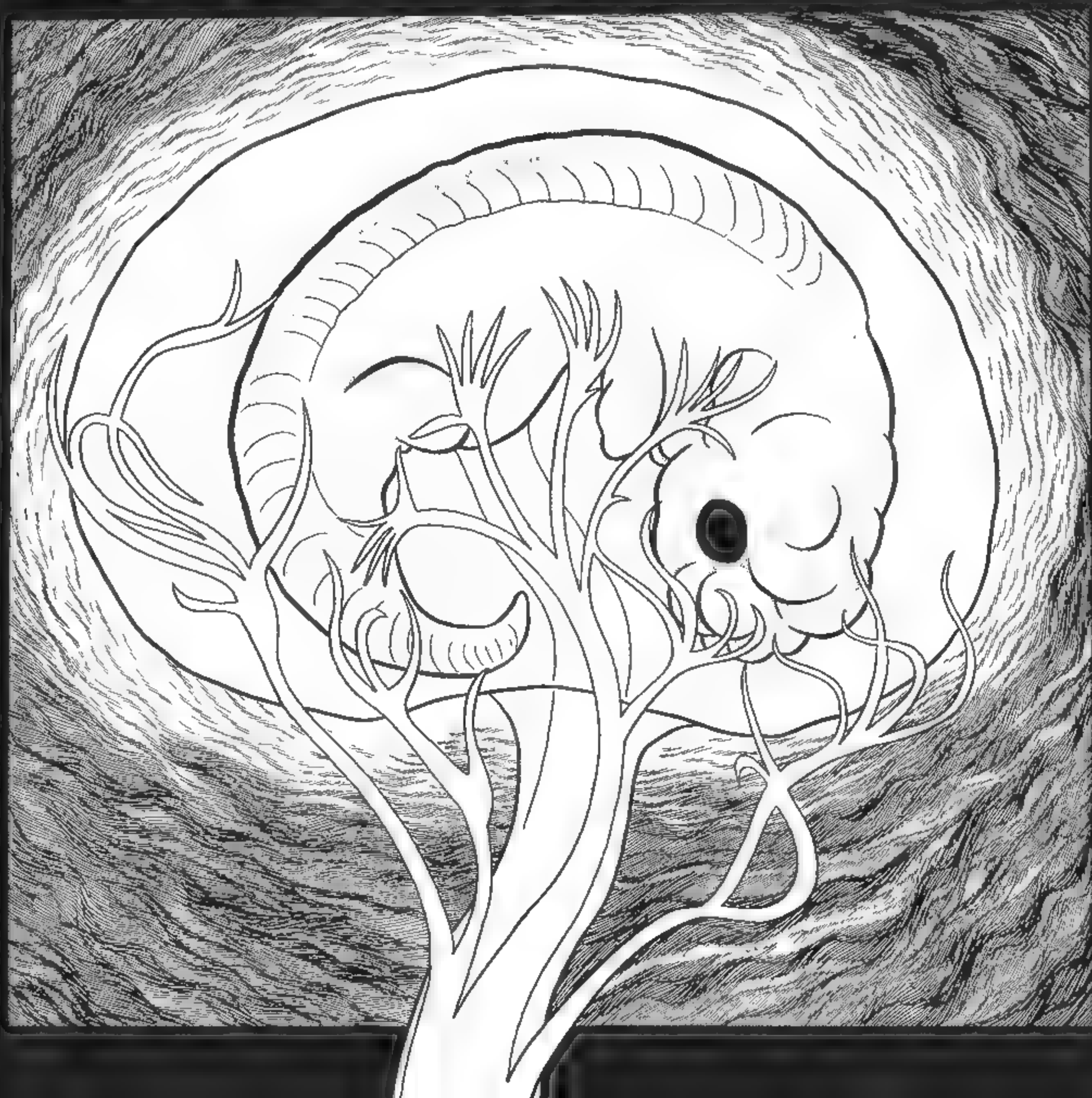
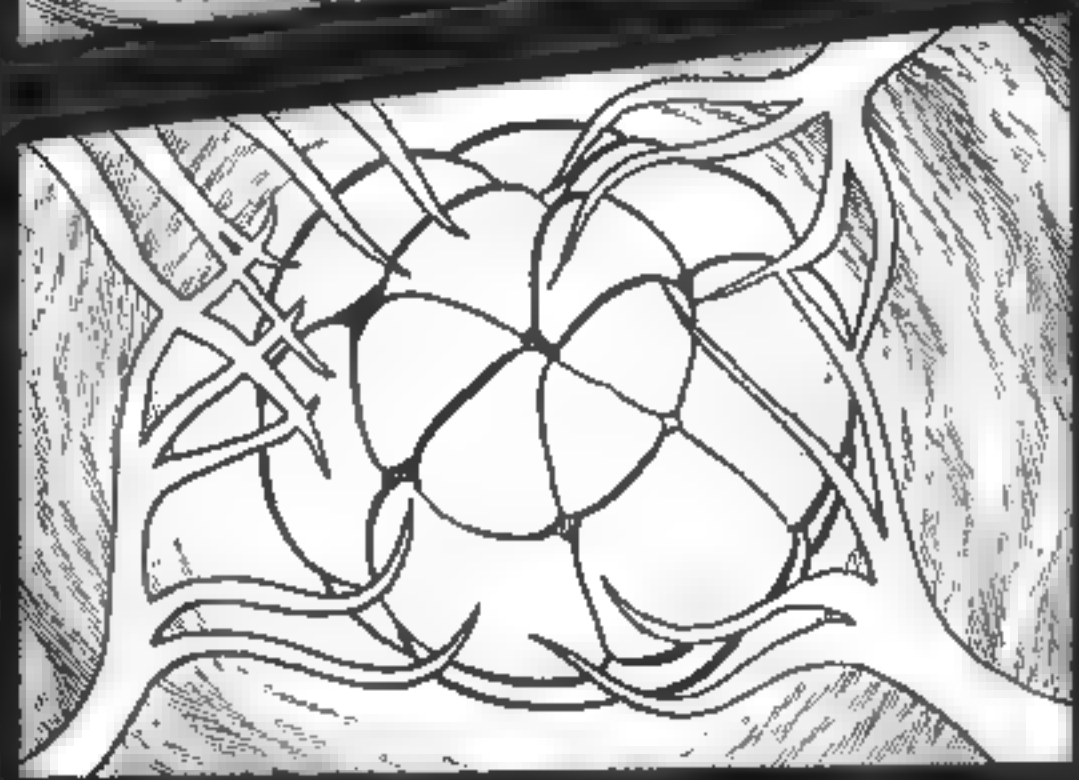
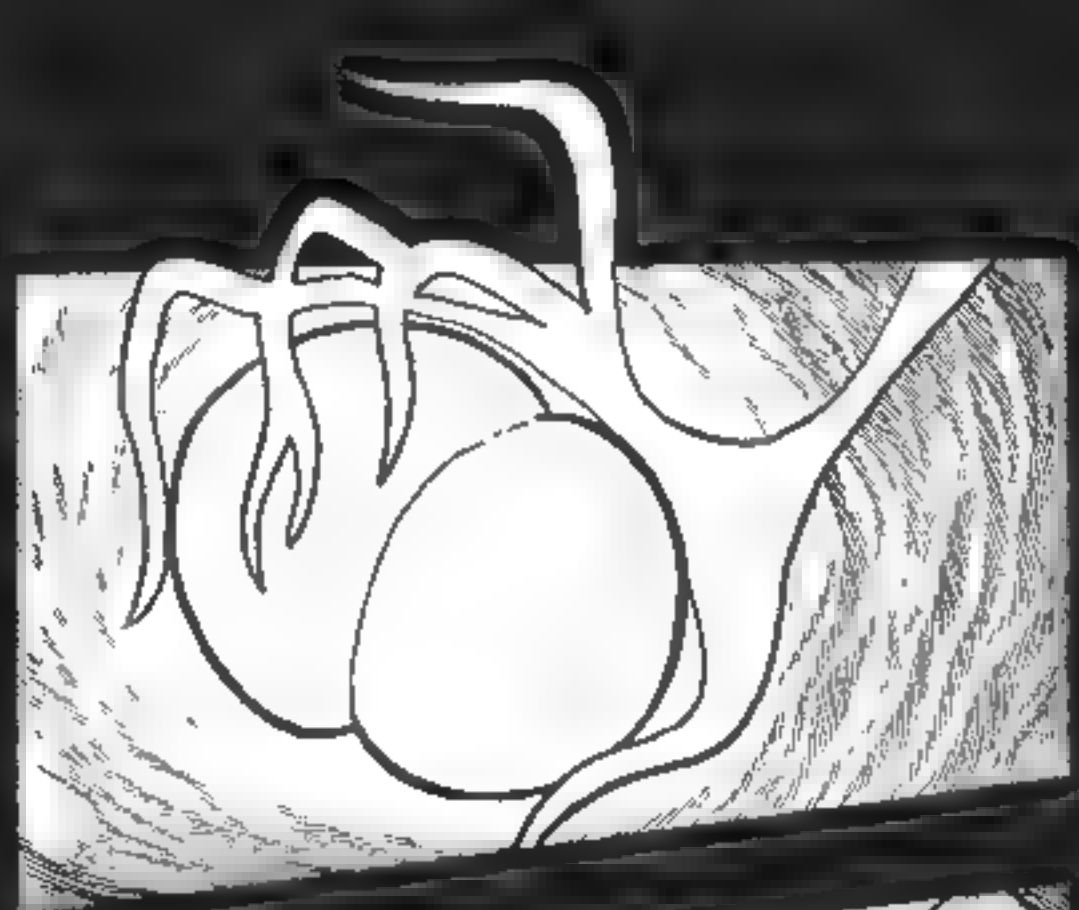
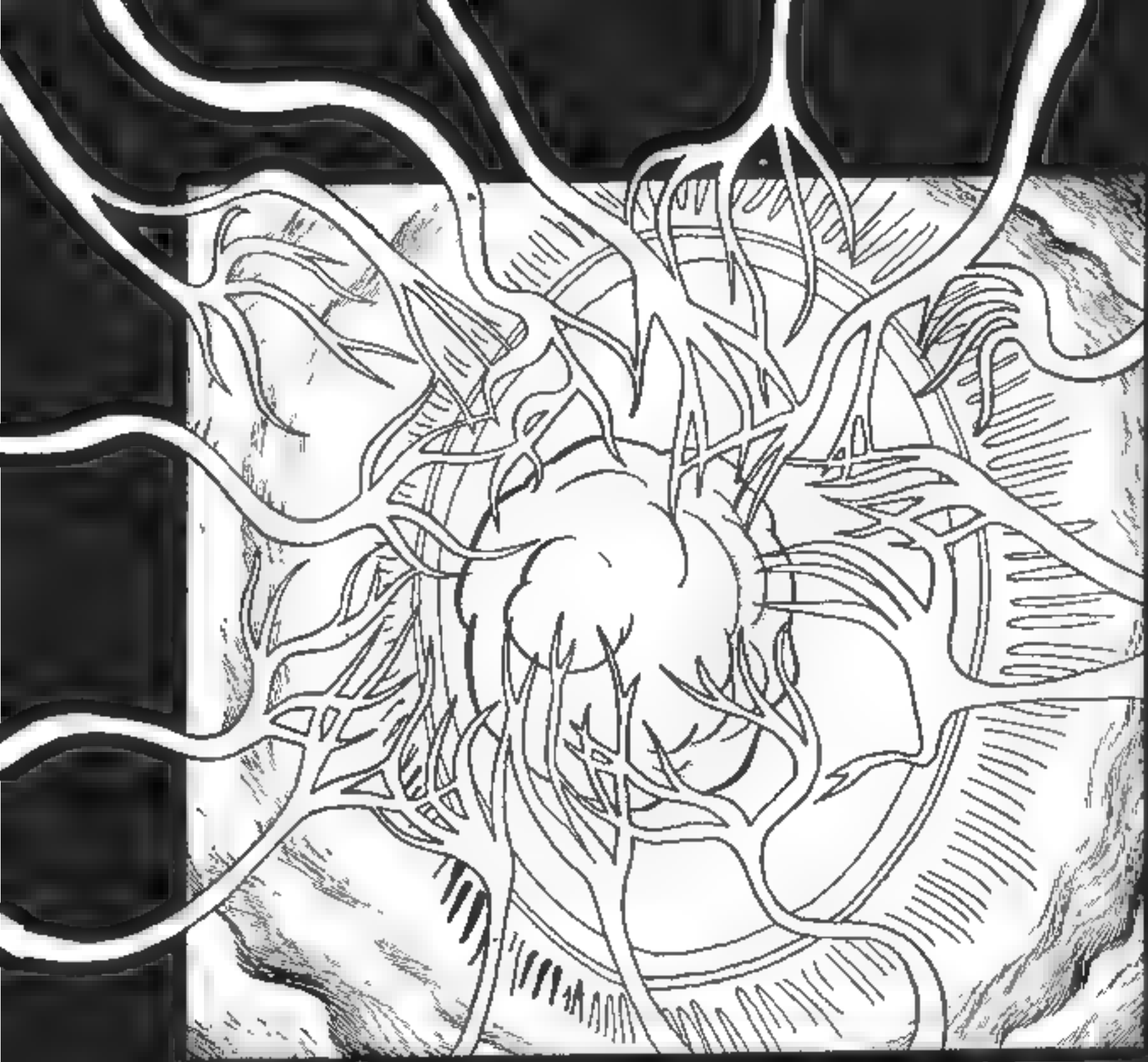


POPP



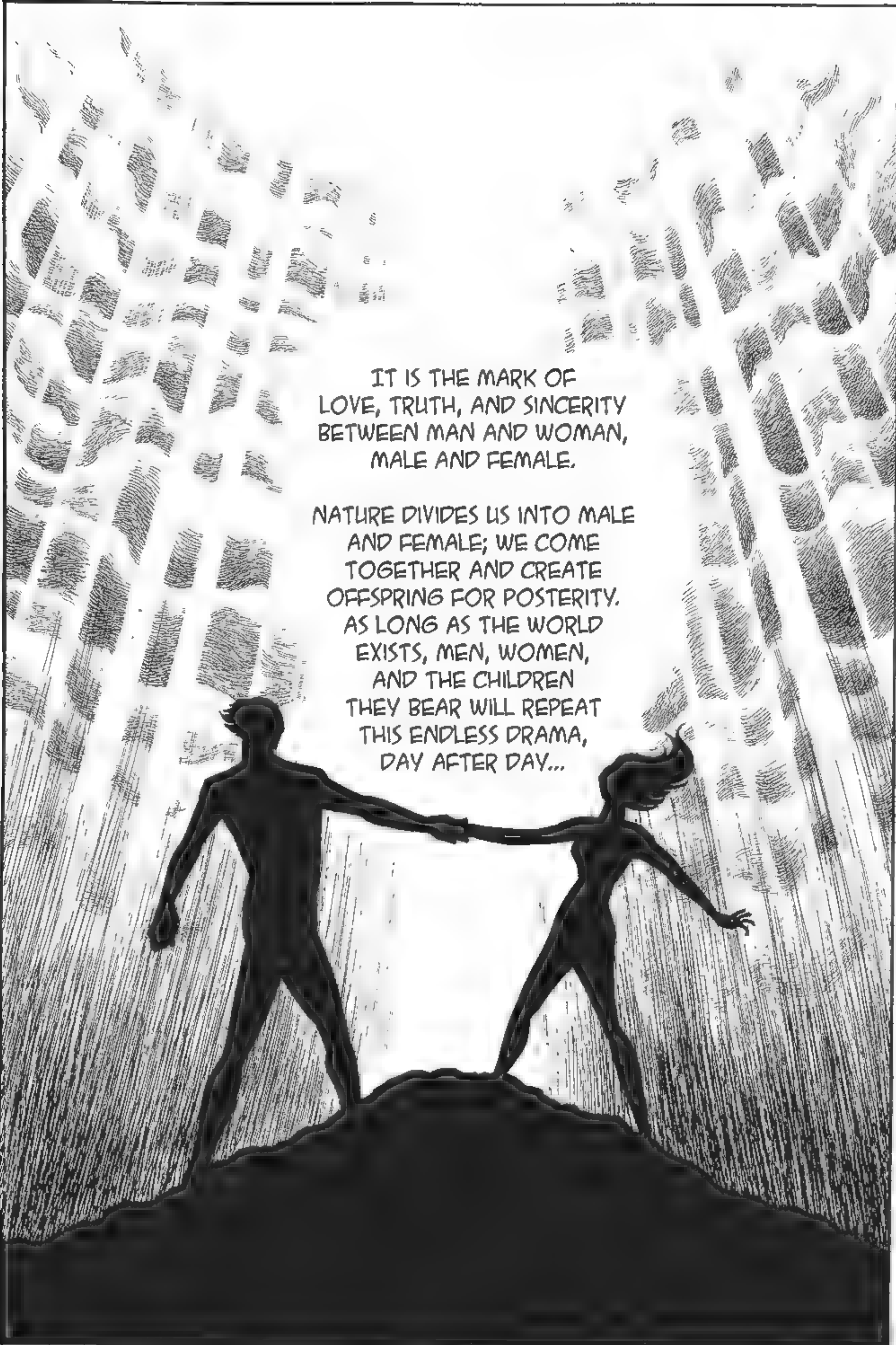
SURE







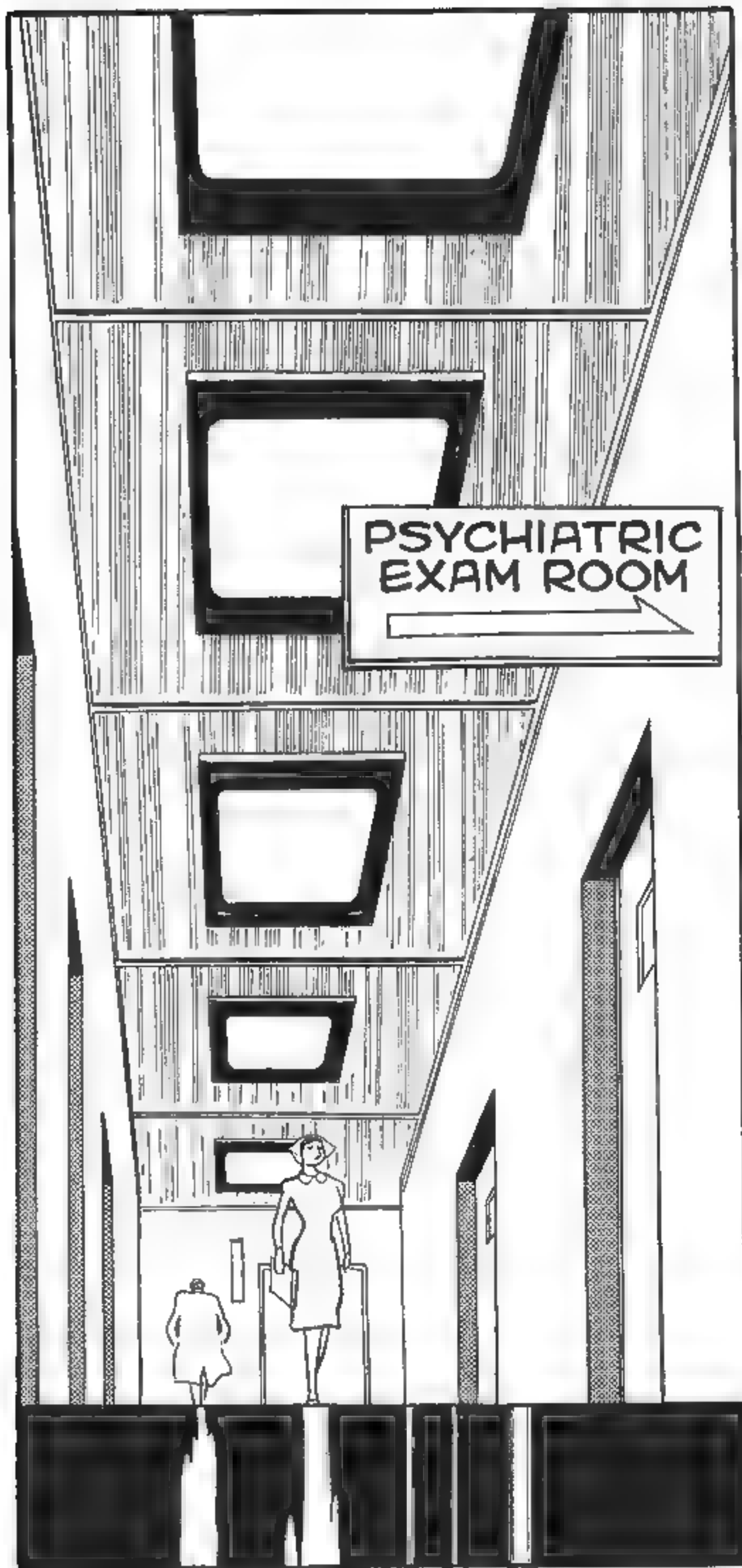
THE EMBRYO:
A MINIATURE
OF EVOLUTION,
AN ORGANISM'S
PAST AND FUTURE,
ITS END AND
BEGINNING.

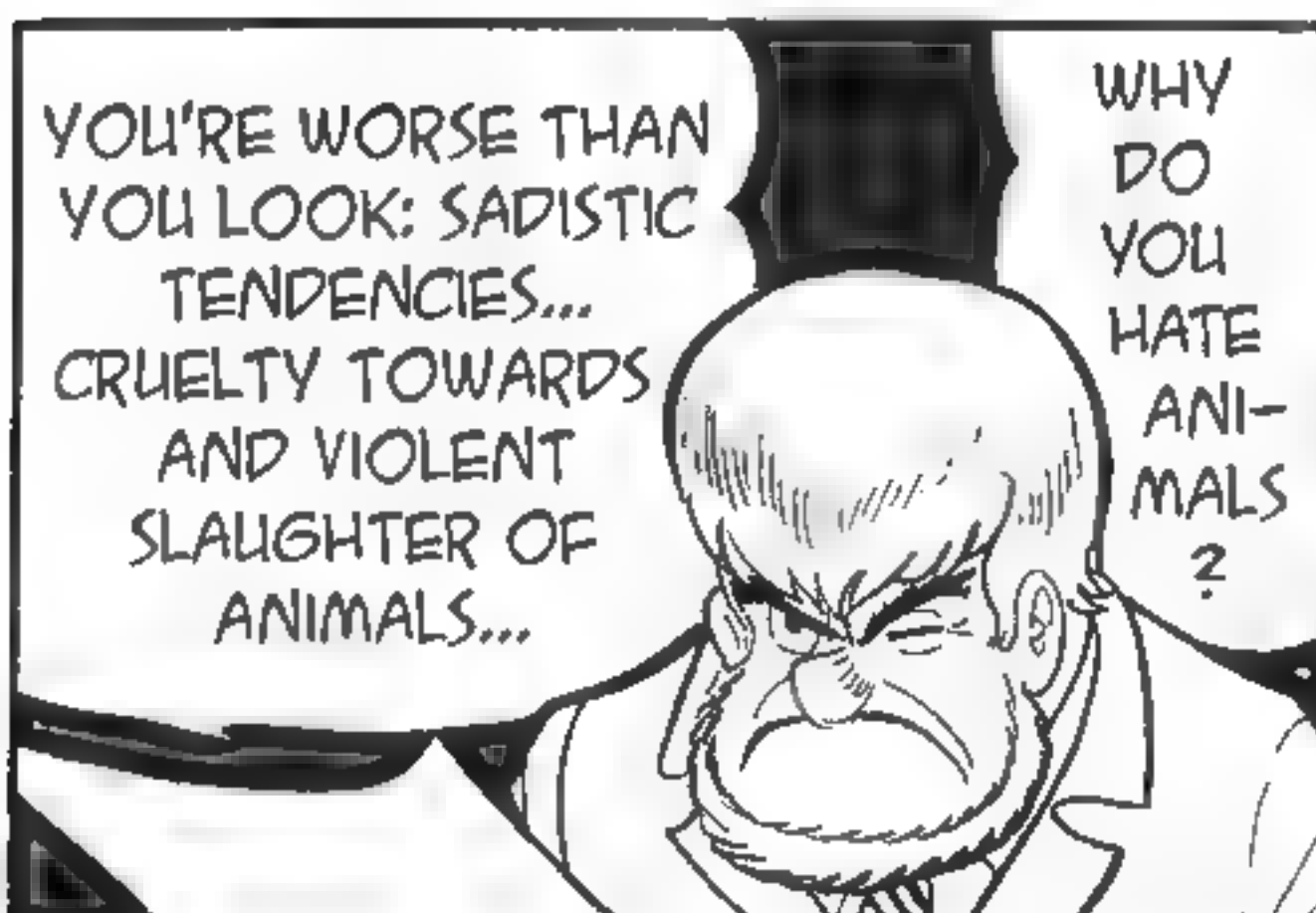
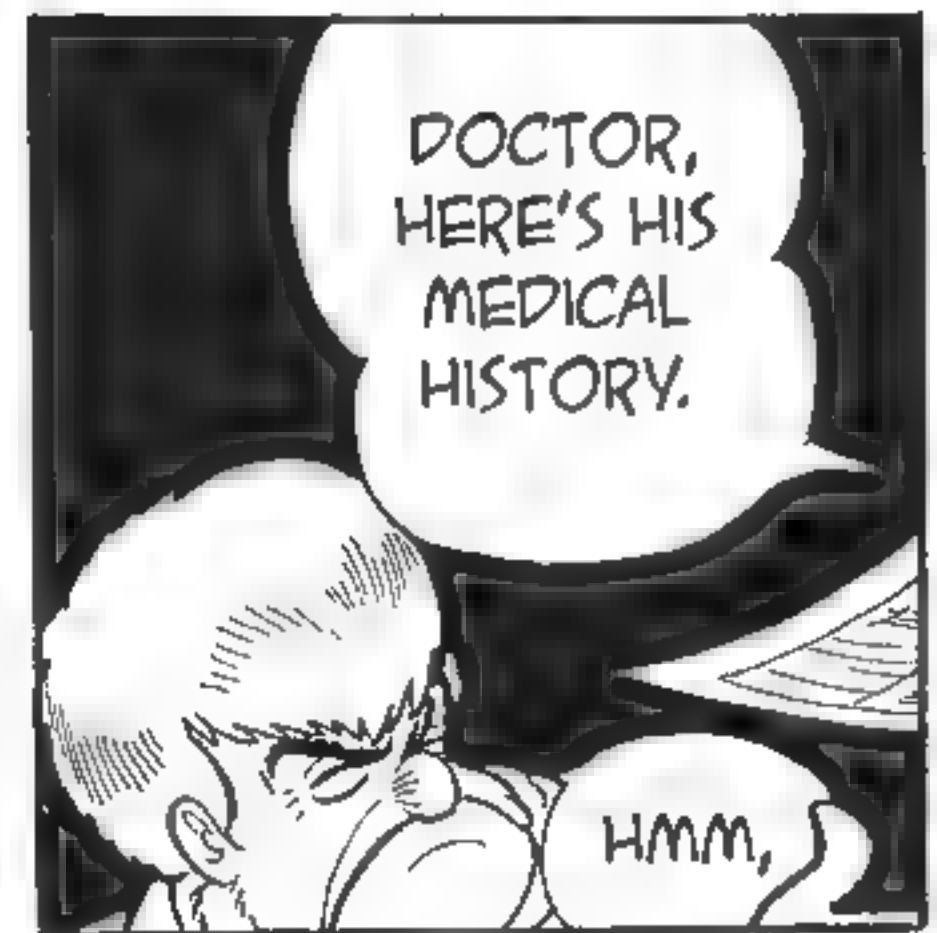
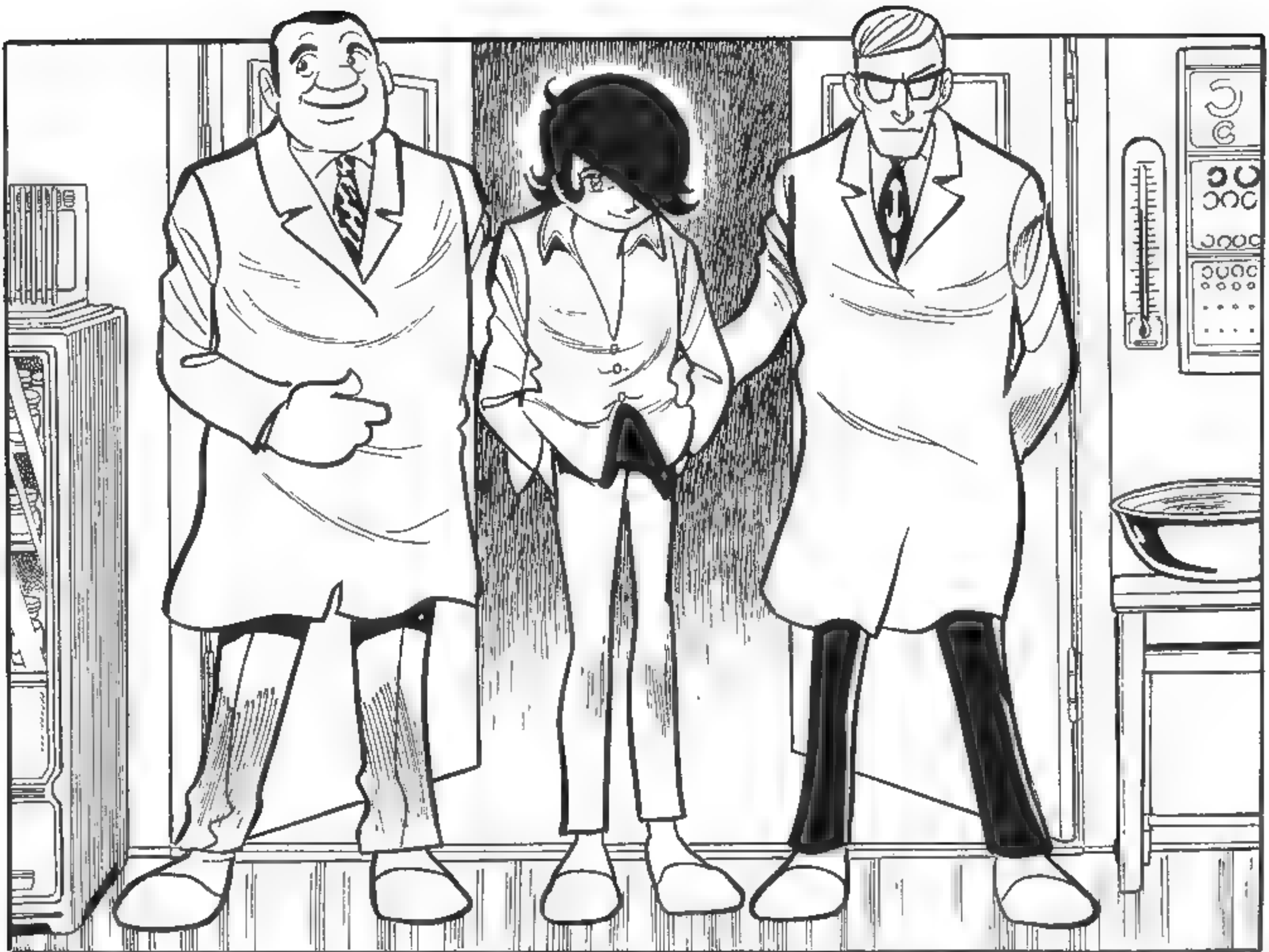


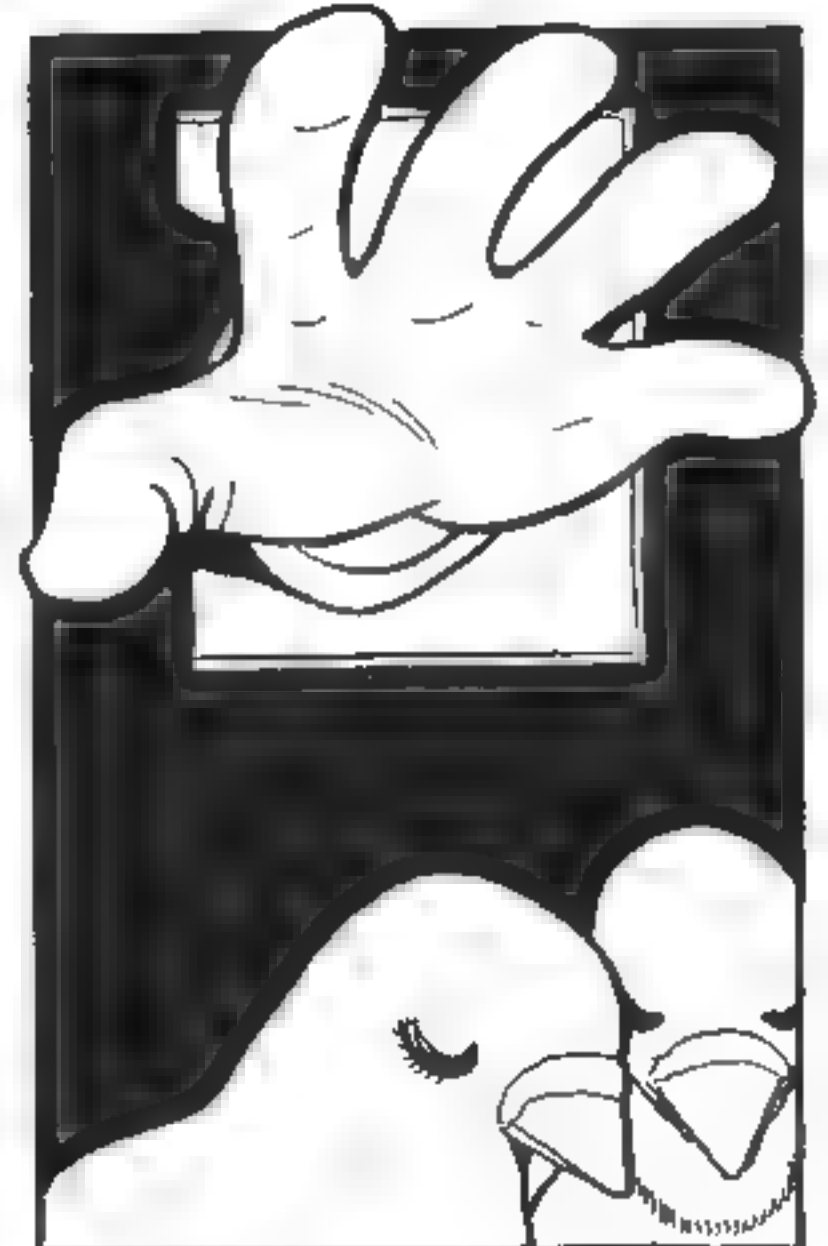
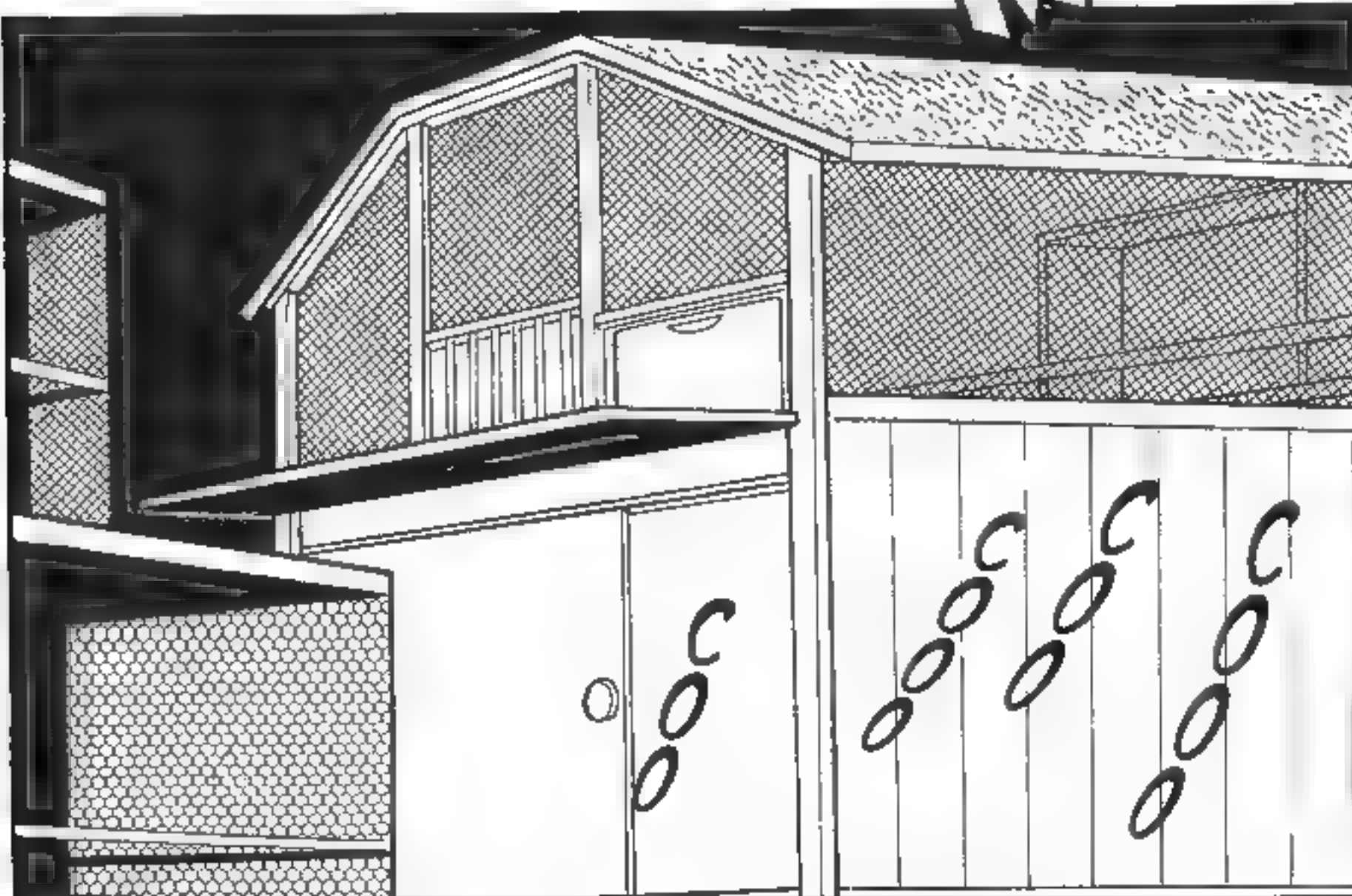
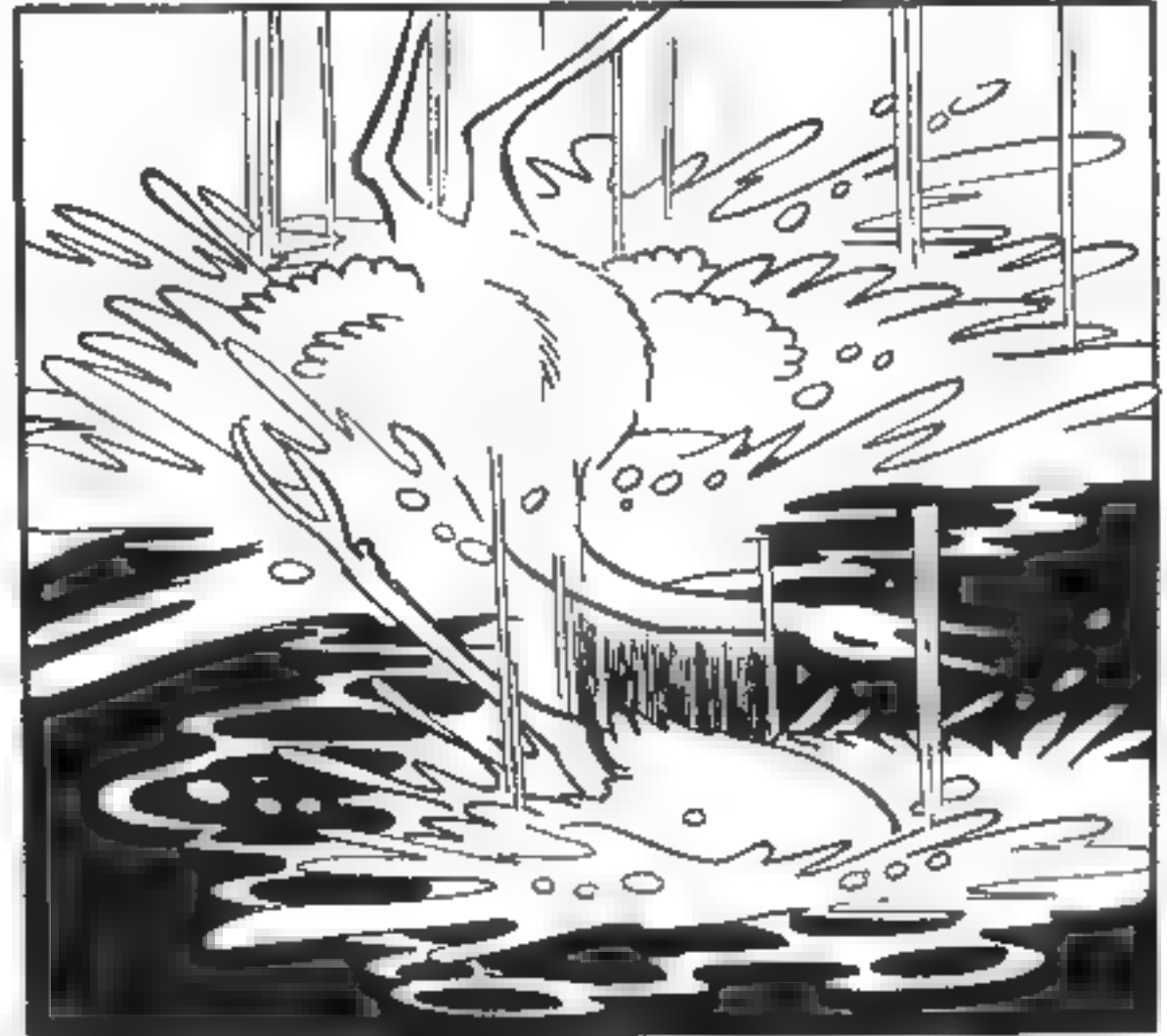
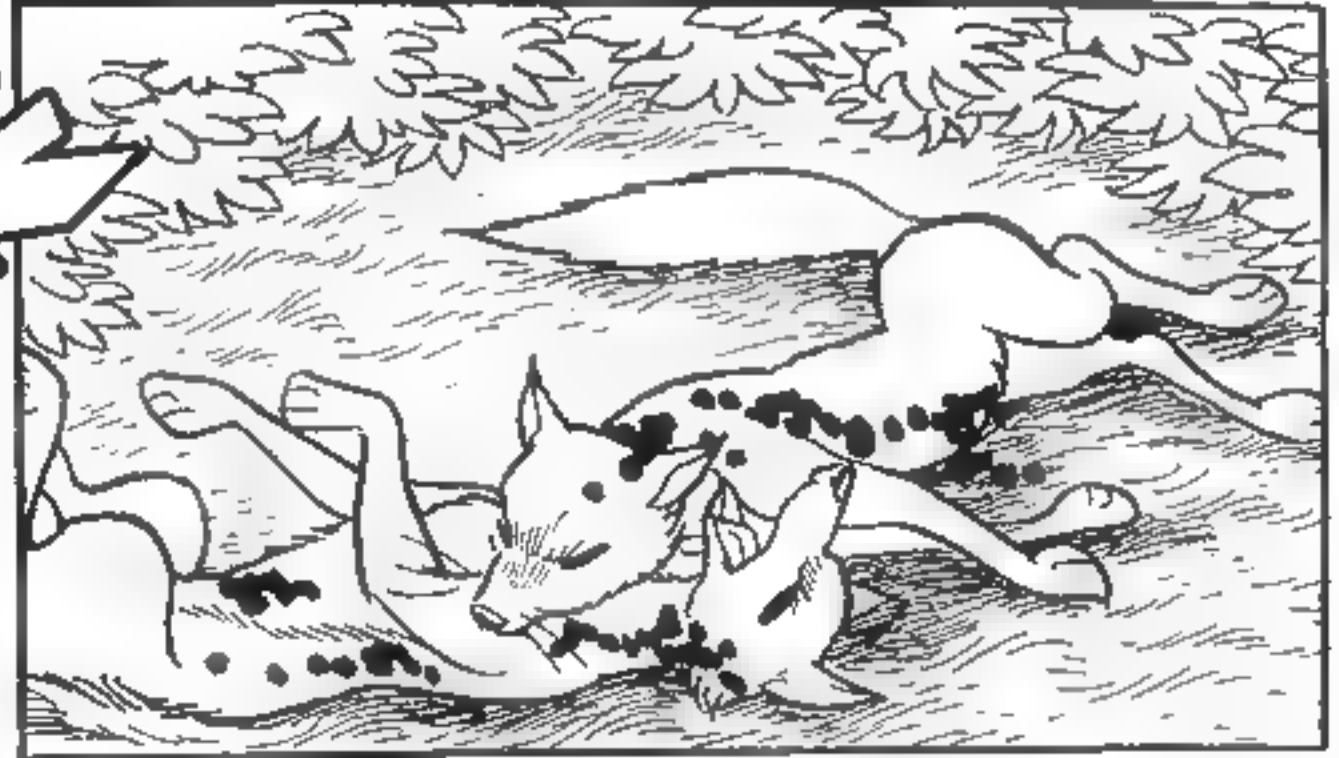
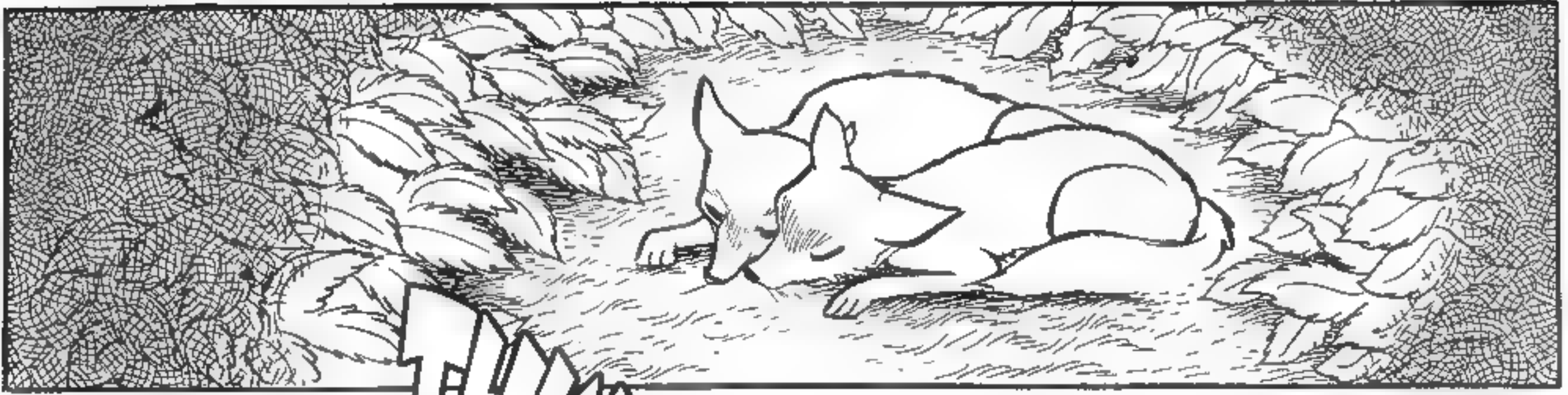
IT IS THE MARK OF
LOVE, TRUTH, AND SINCERITY
BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN,
MALE AND FEMALE.

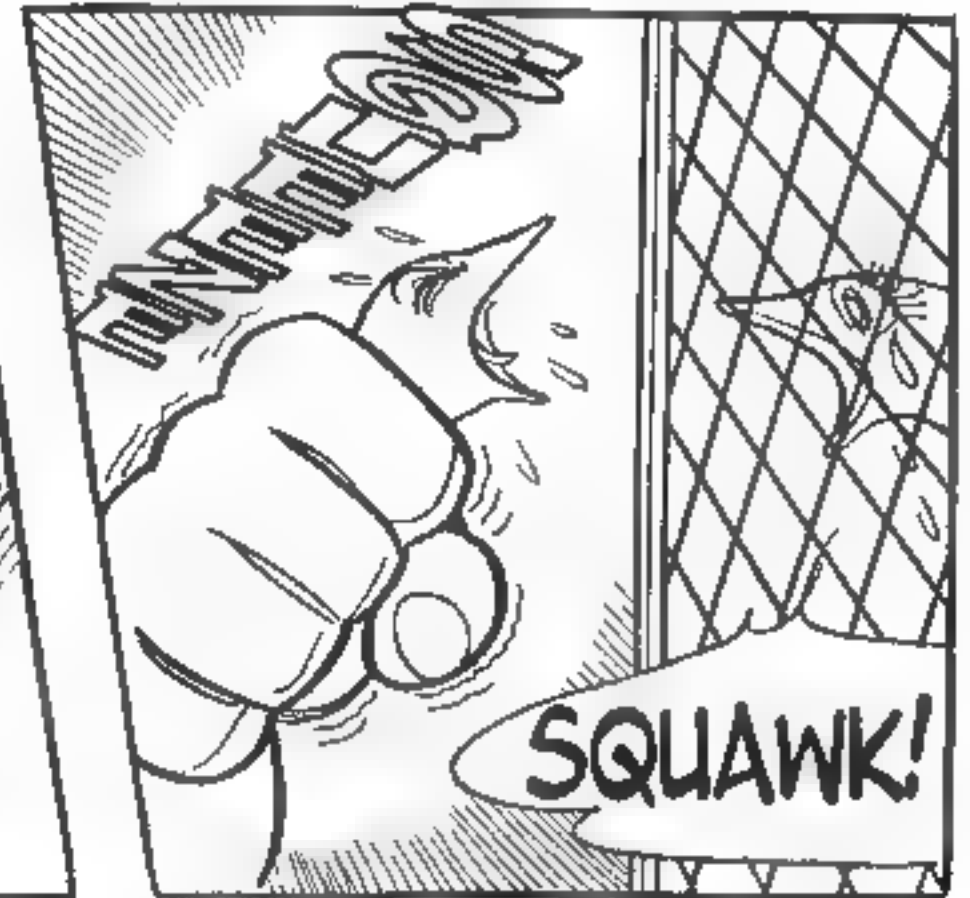
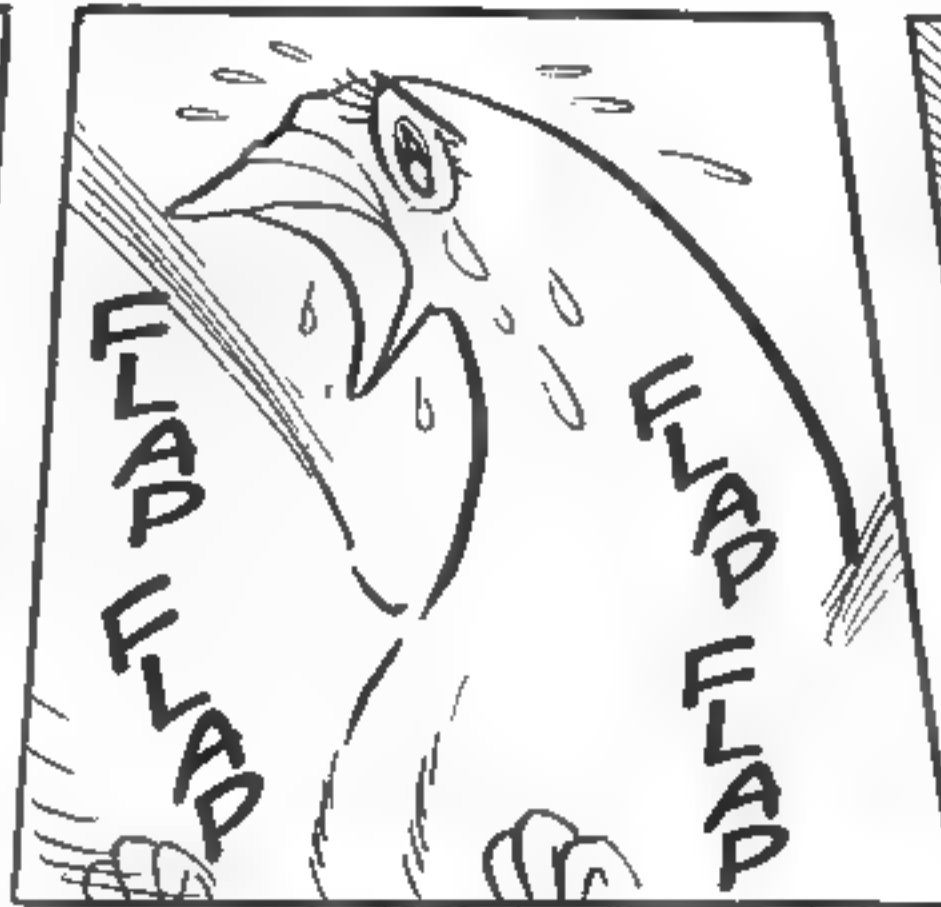
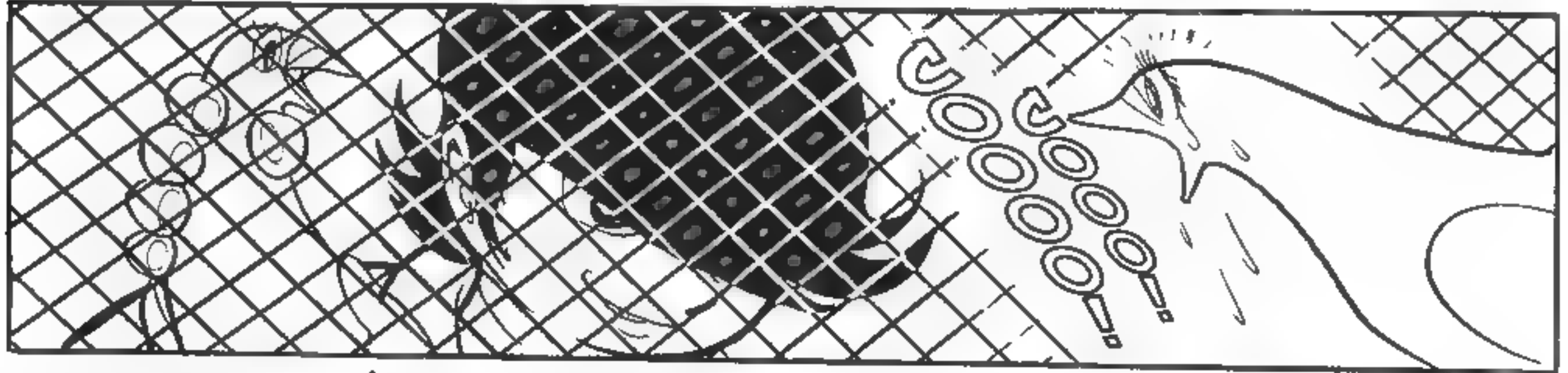
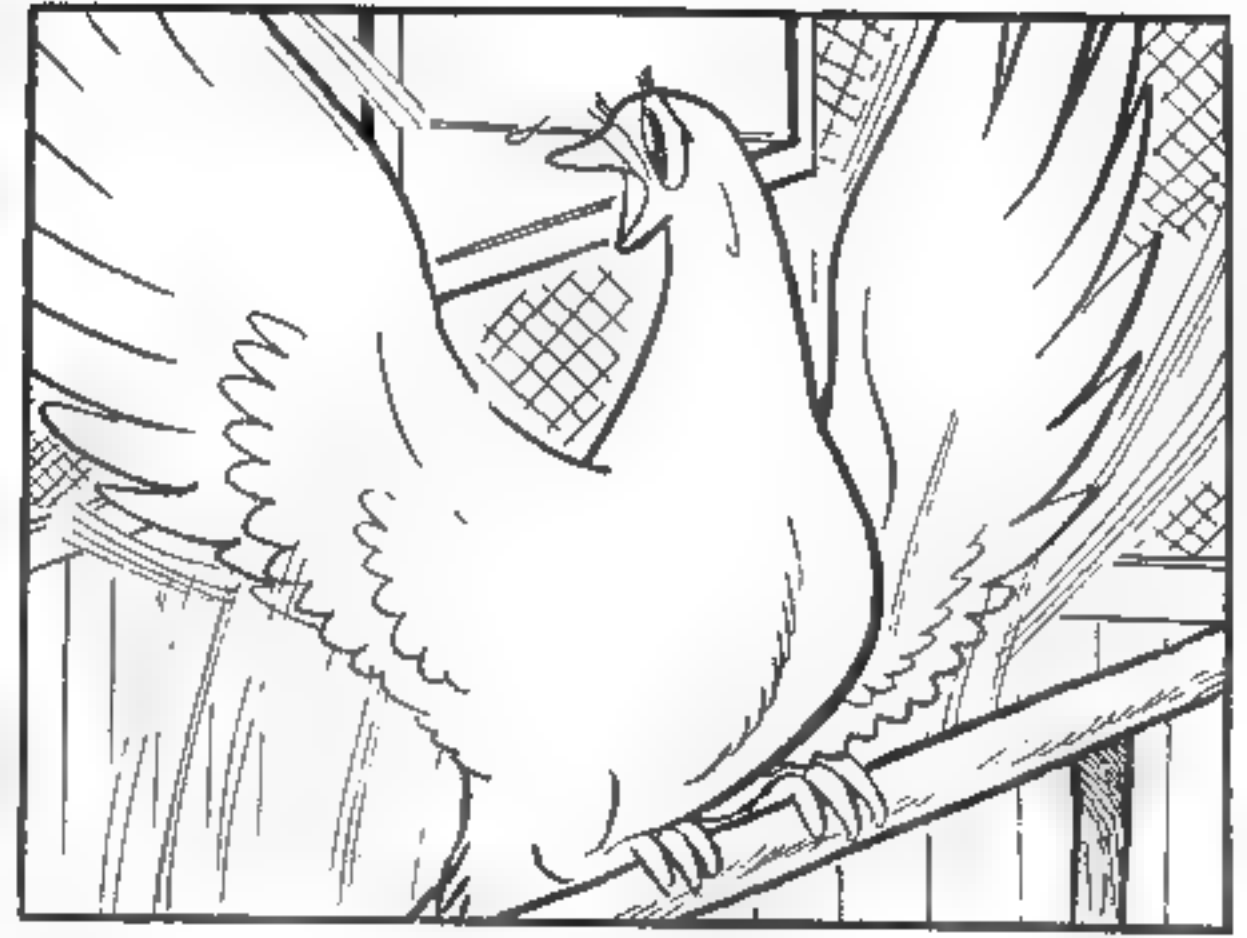
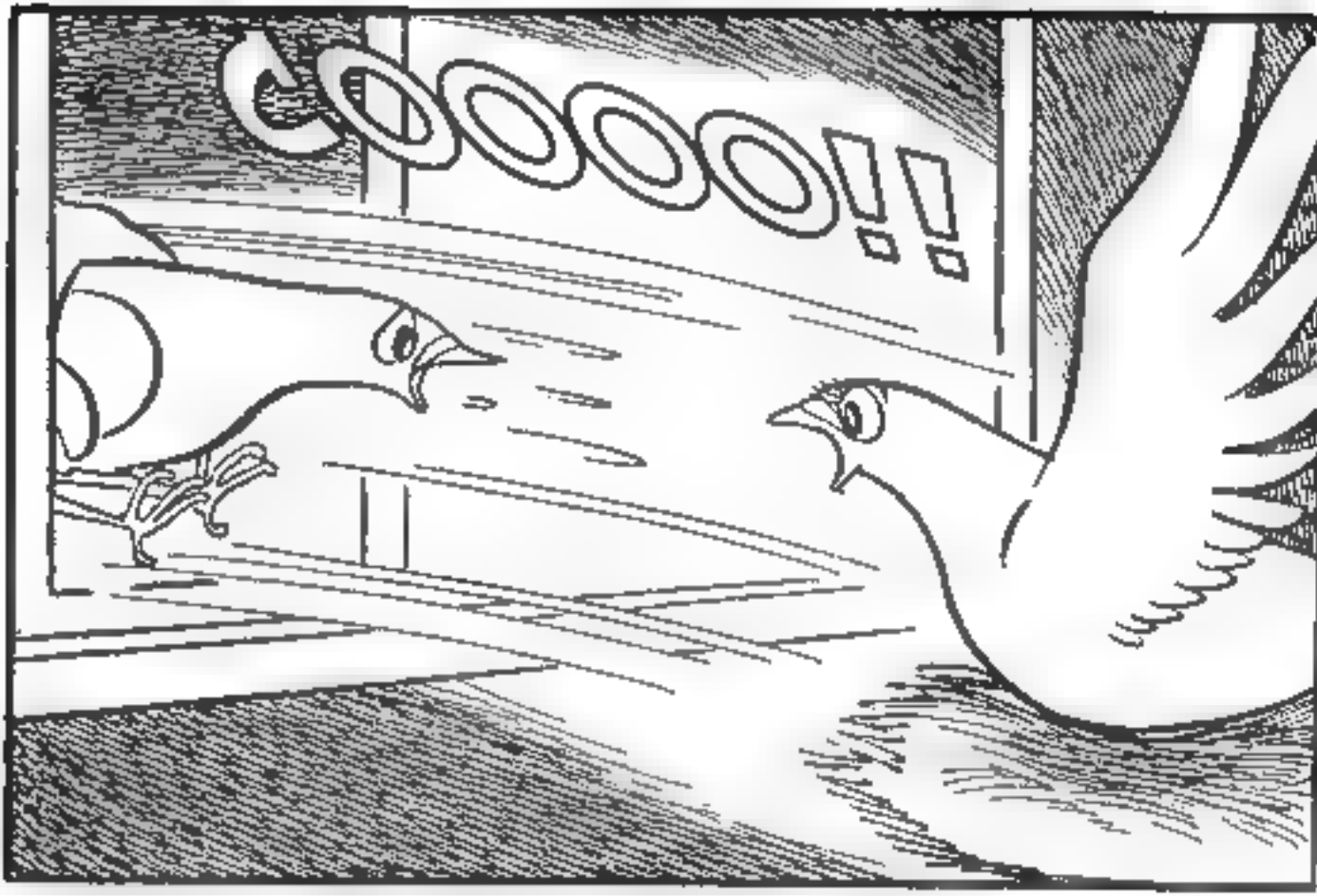
NATURE DIVIDES US INTO MALE
AND FEMALE; WE COME
TOGETHER AND CREATE
OFFSPRING FOR POSTERITY.
AS LONG AS THE WORLD
EXISTS, MEN, WOMEN,
AND THE CHILDREN
THEY BEAR WILL REPEAT
THIS ENDLESS DRAMA,
DAY AFTER DAY...

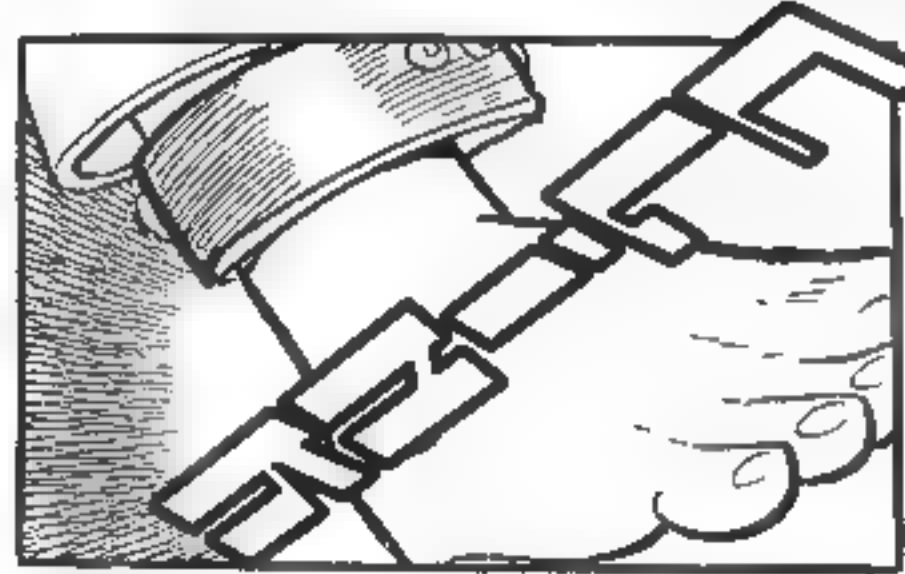
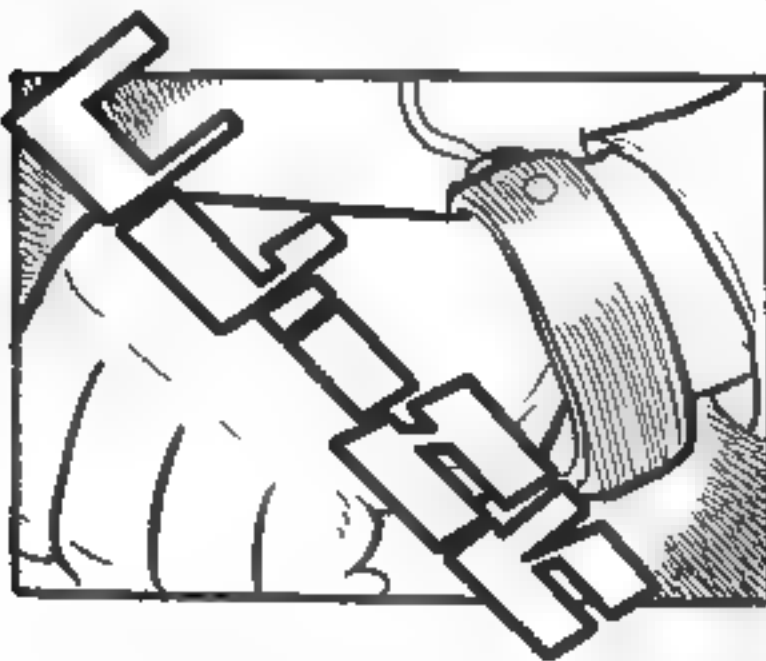
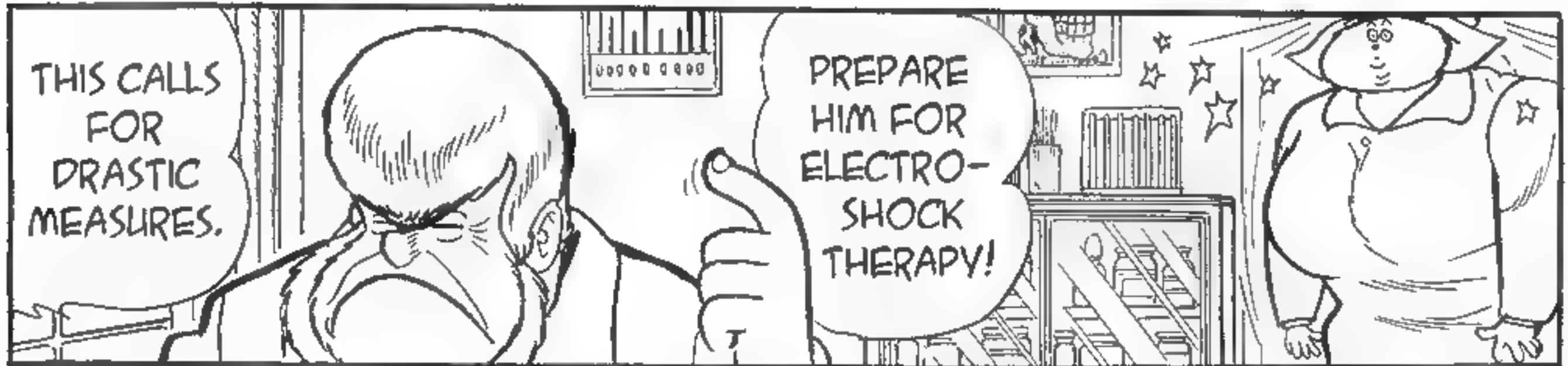
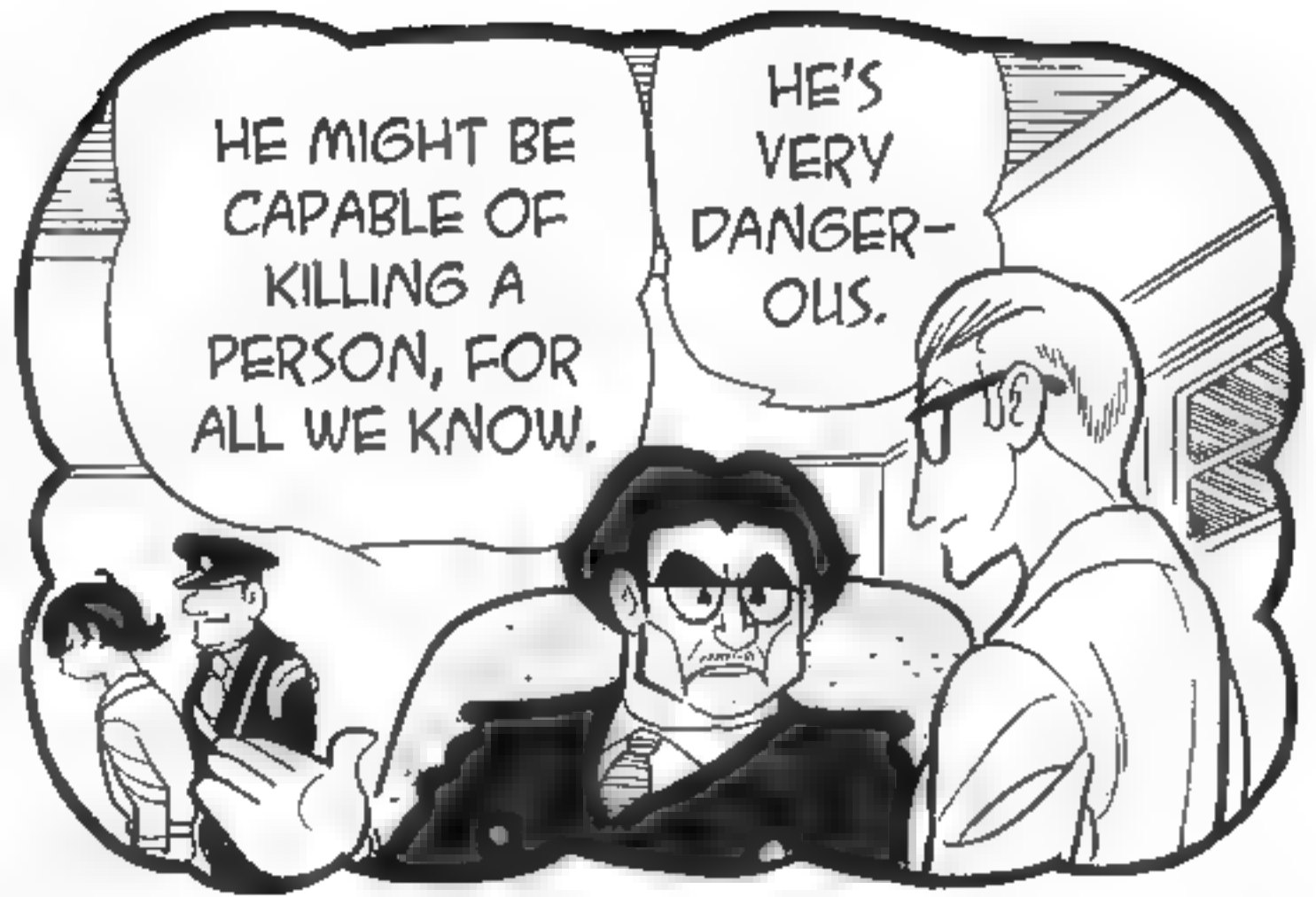
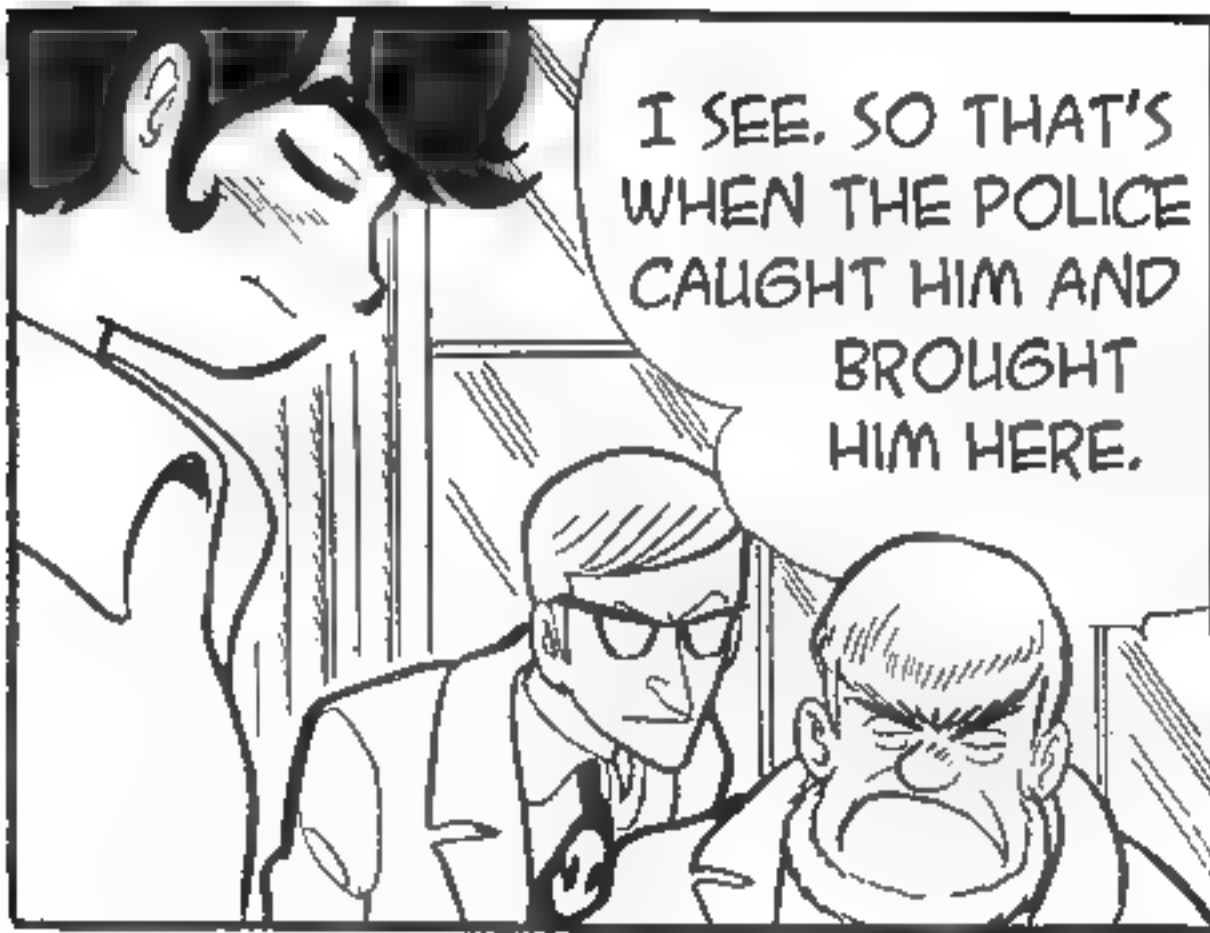
APOLLO'S SONG

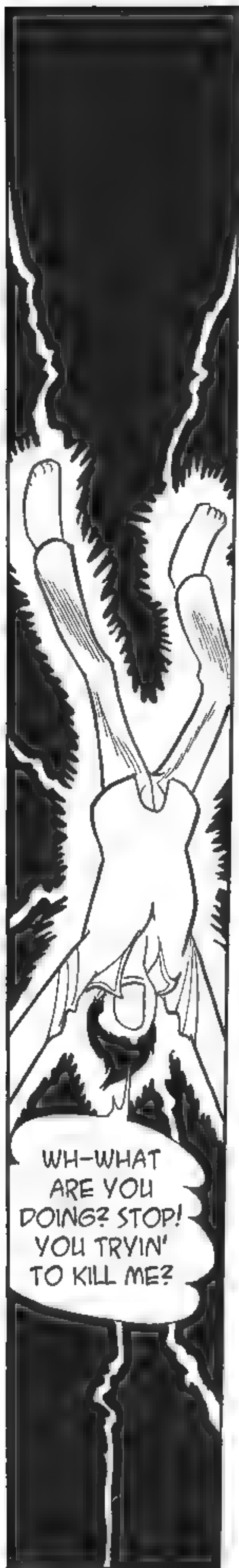














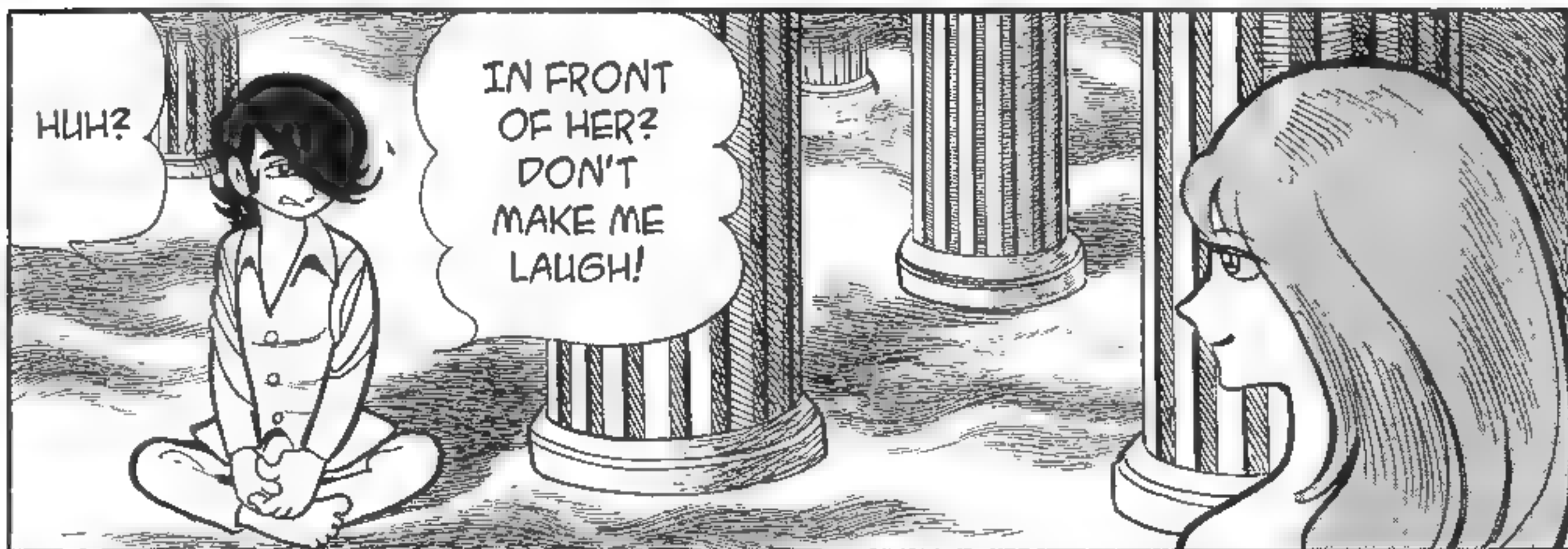


WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU?!

FOOLISH
YOUNG SHOGO
CHIKAISHI...
ANSWER
MY QUESTIONS,
AND HIDE
NOTHING.



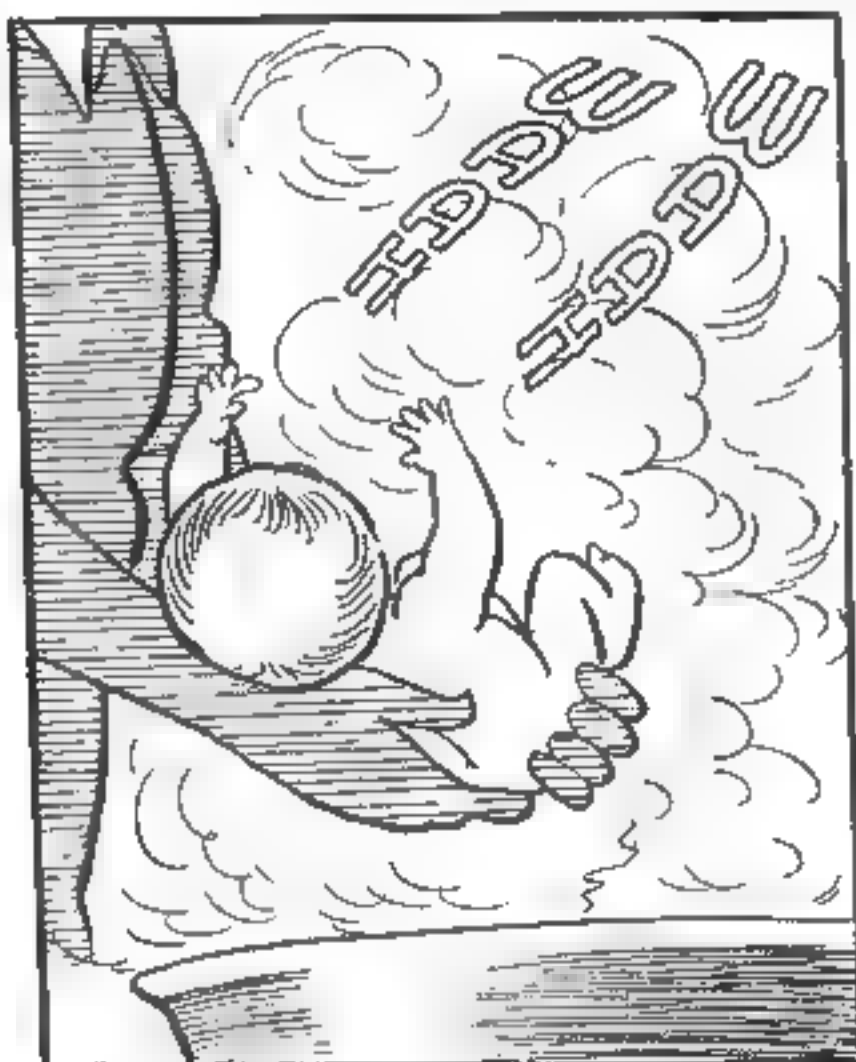
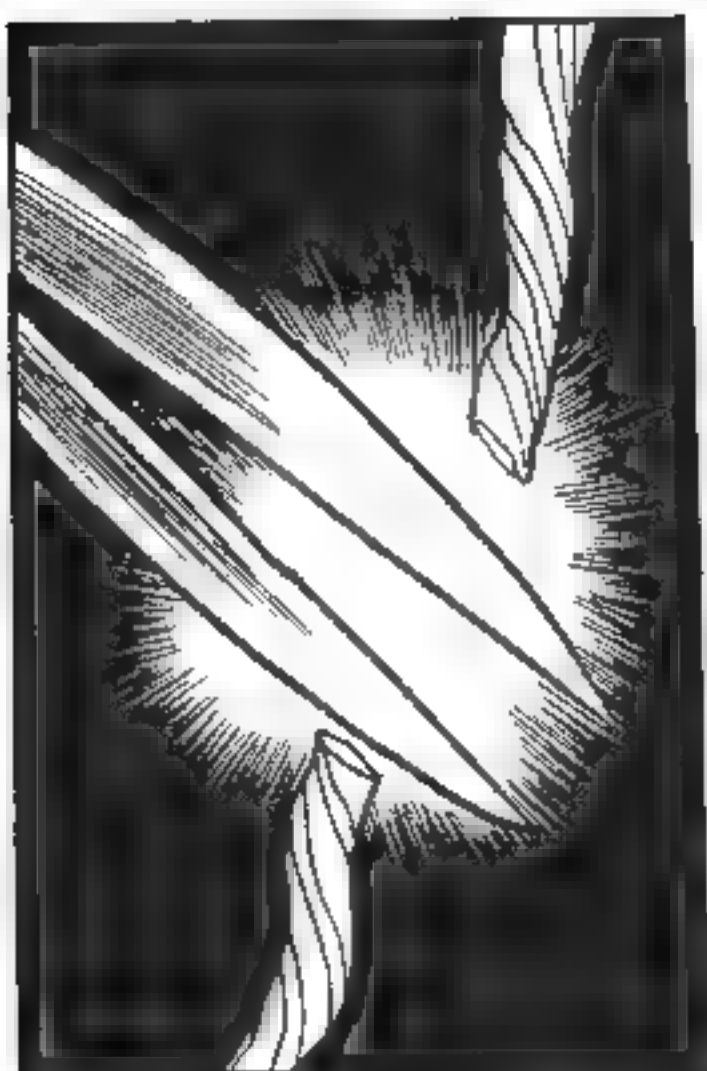


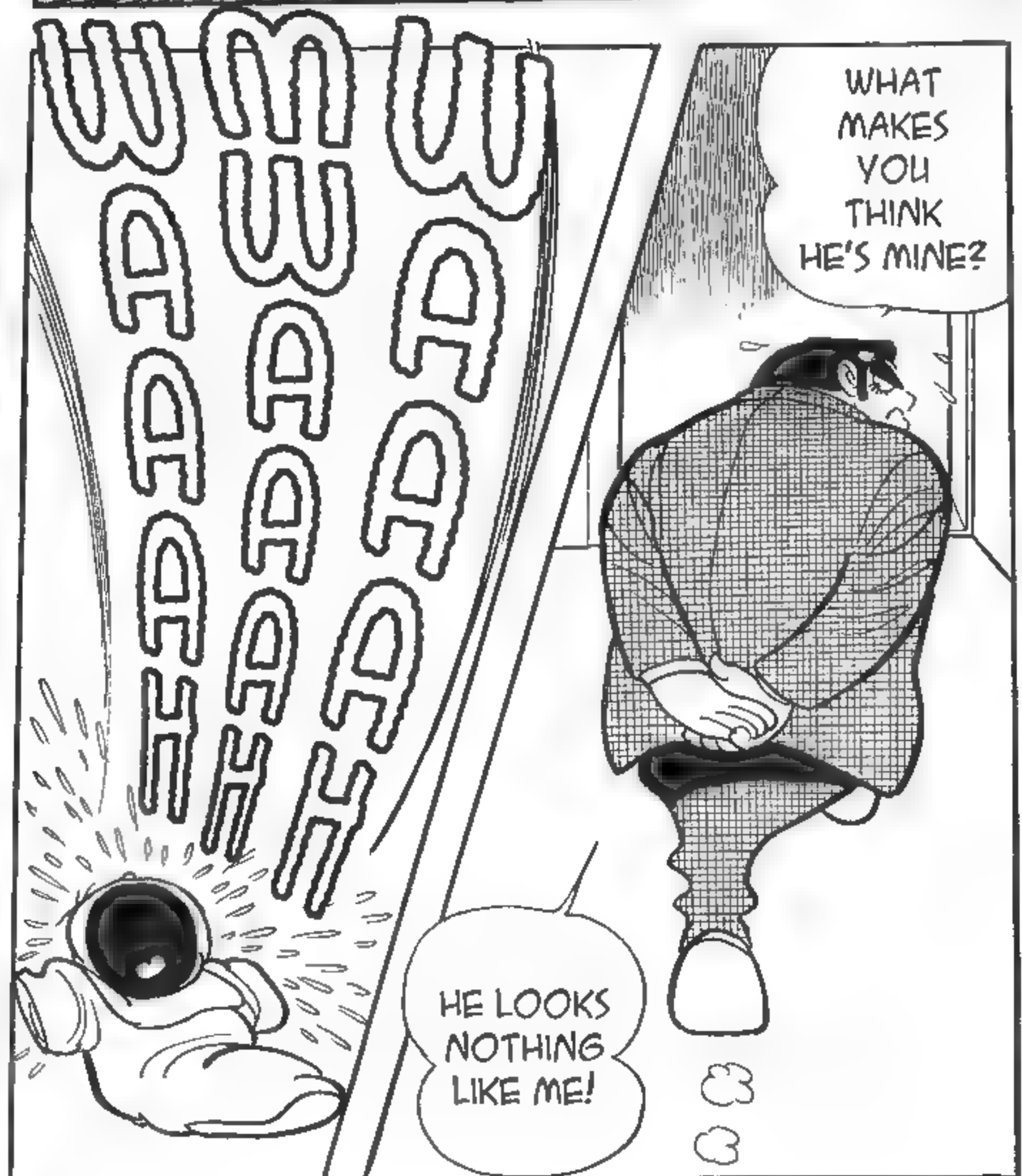


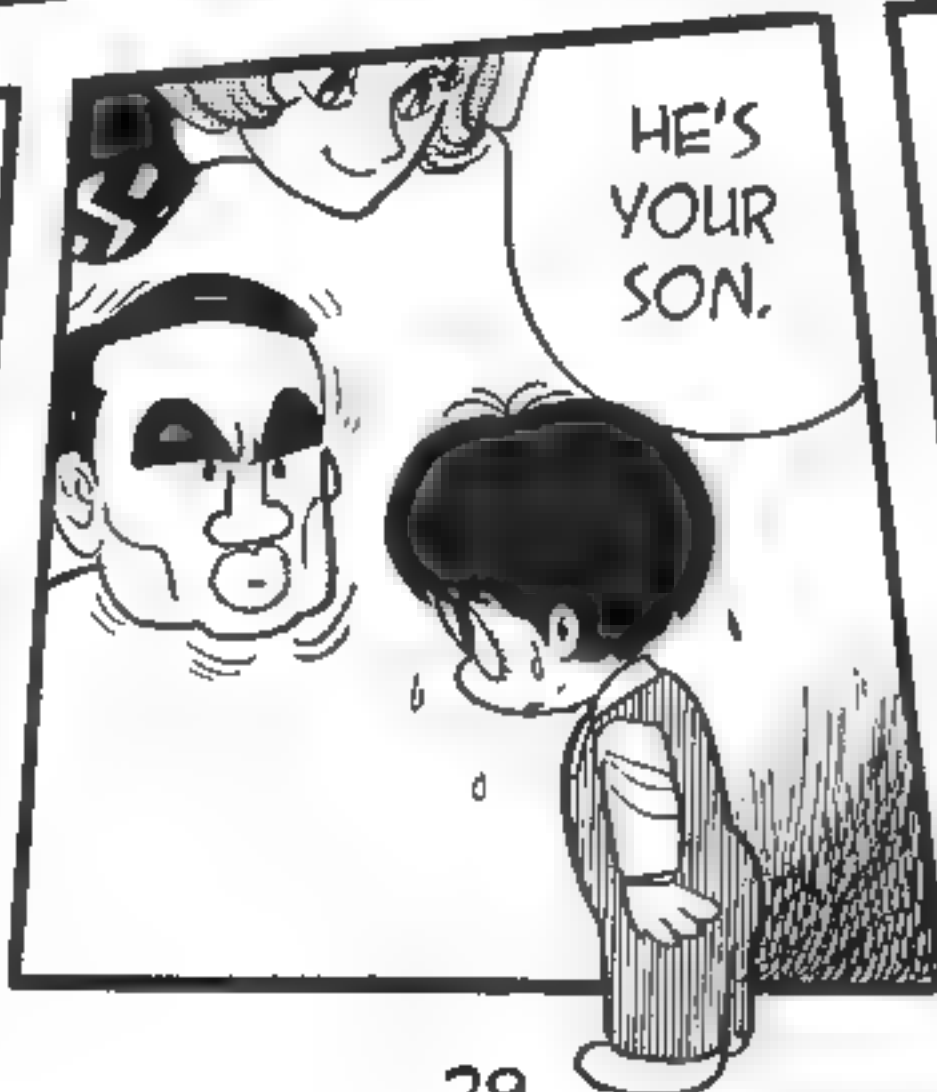
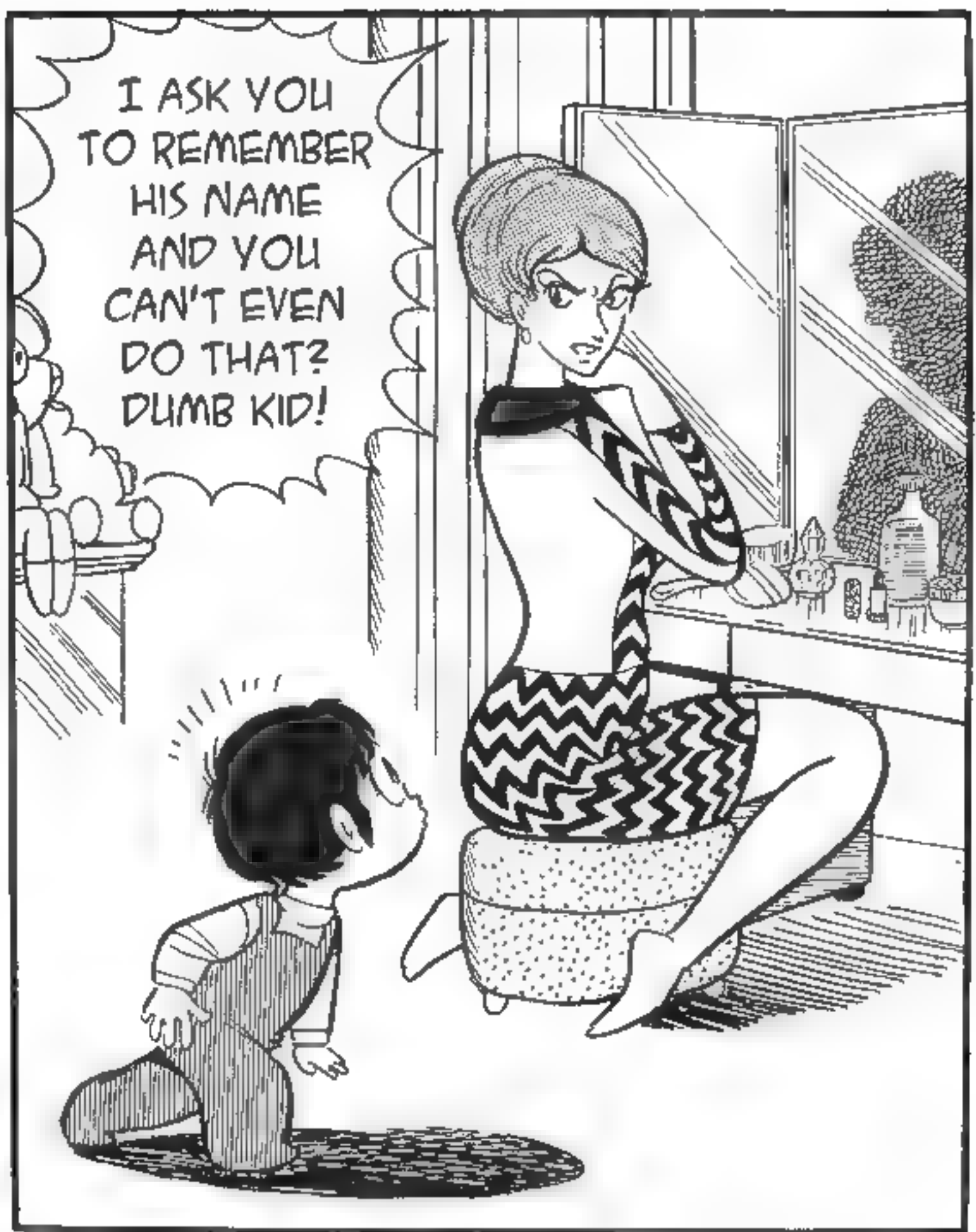
BUT
AT THE
MOMENT
I WAS
BORN,
I WAS
CUT OFF
FROM
HER.

SHE WAS
BUSY,
AND HER
BREASTS
DIDN'T
HAVE A
DROP
OF MILK.

WAAAAAH
WAAAAAH
WAAAAAH

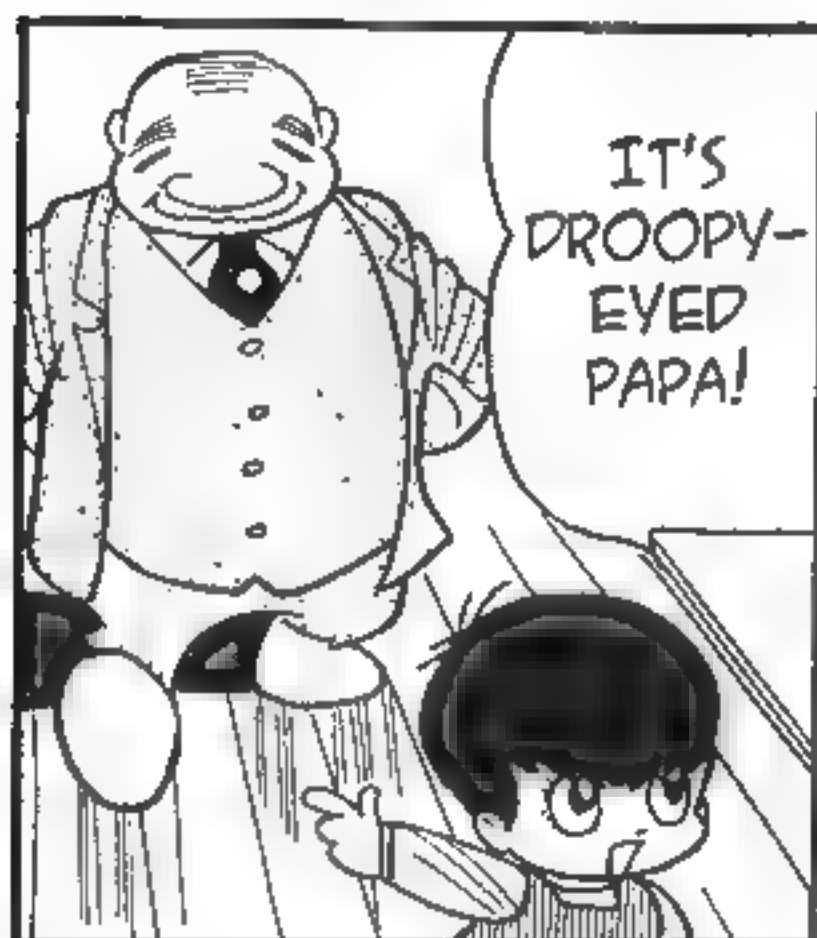


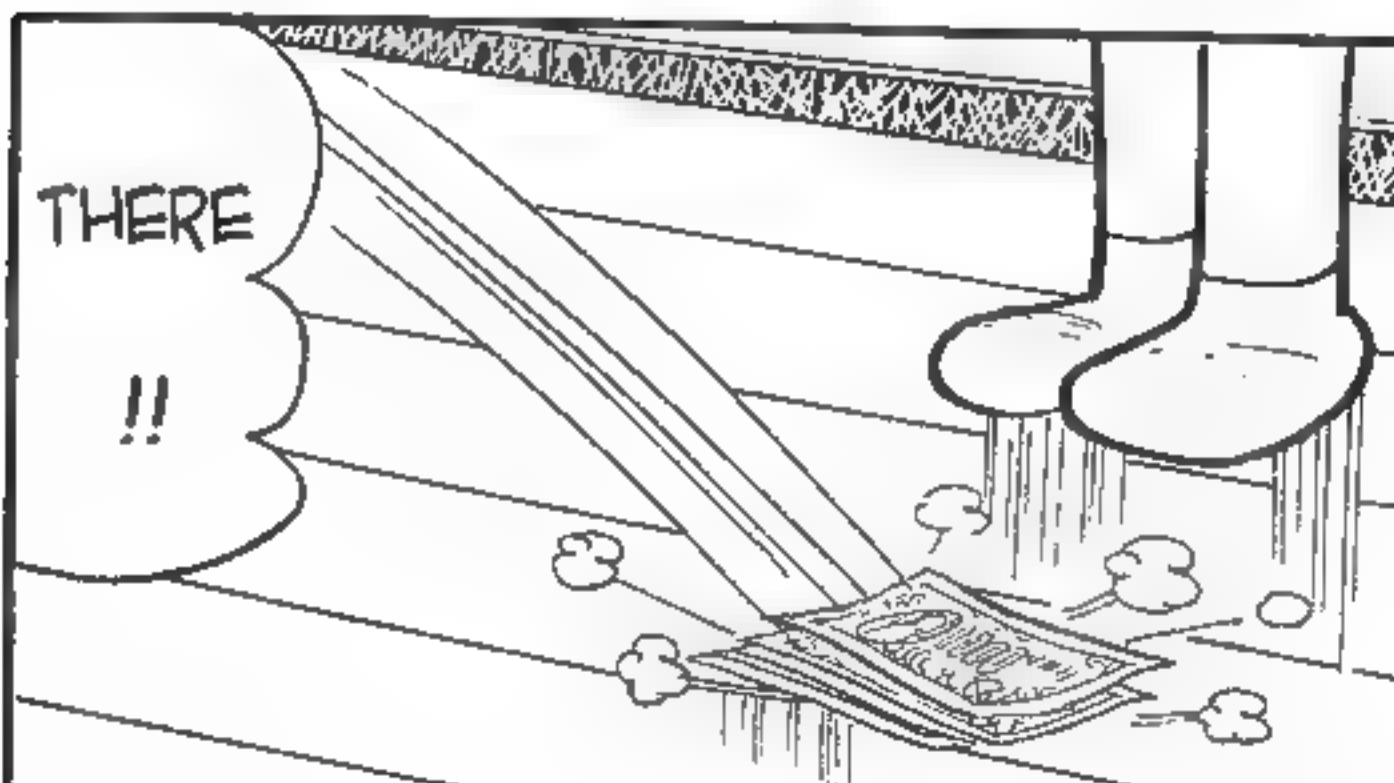
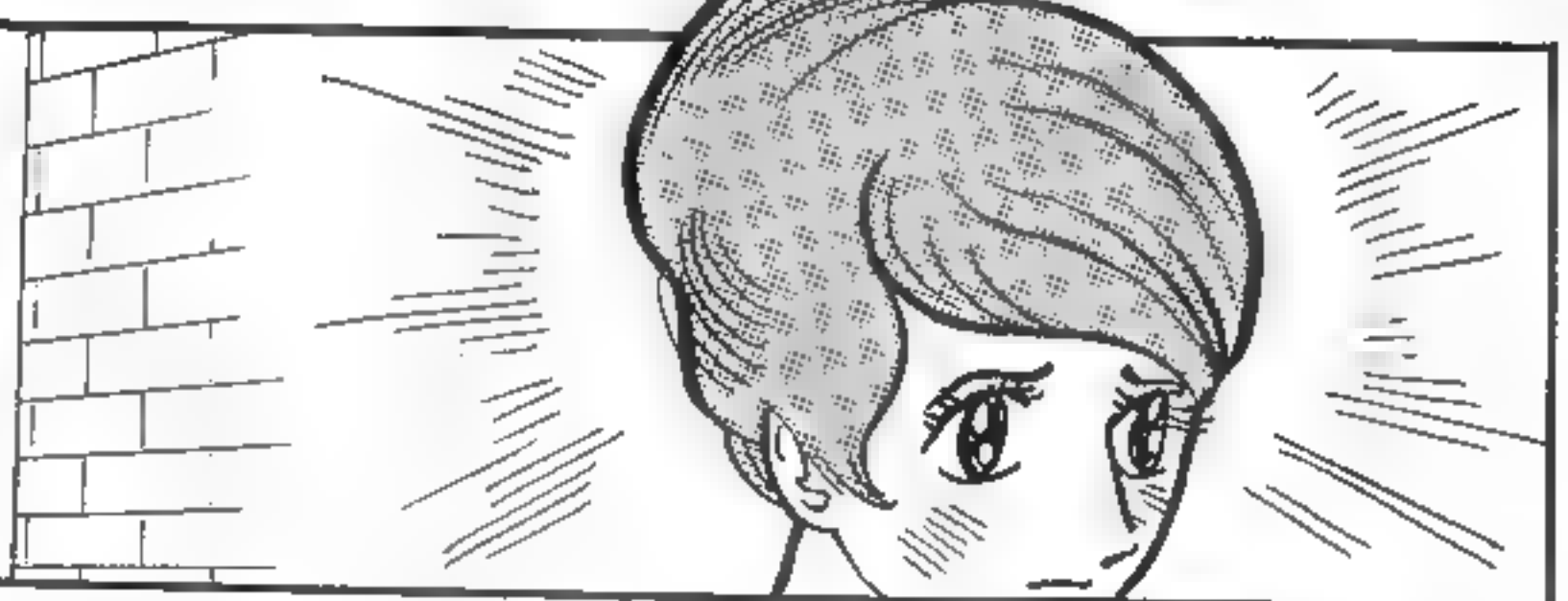
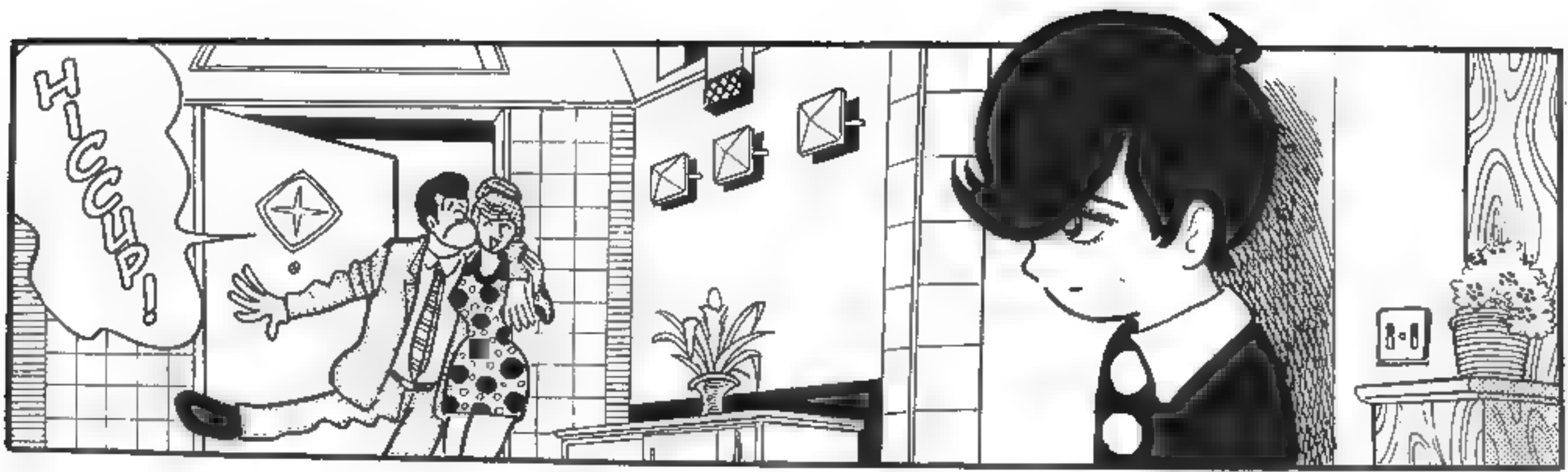


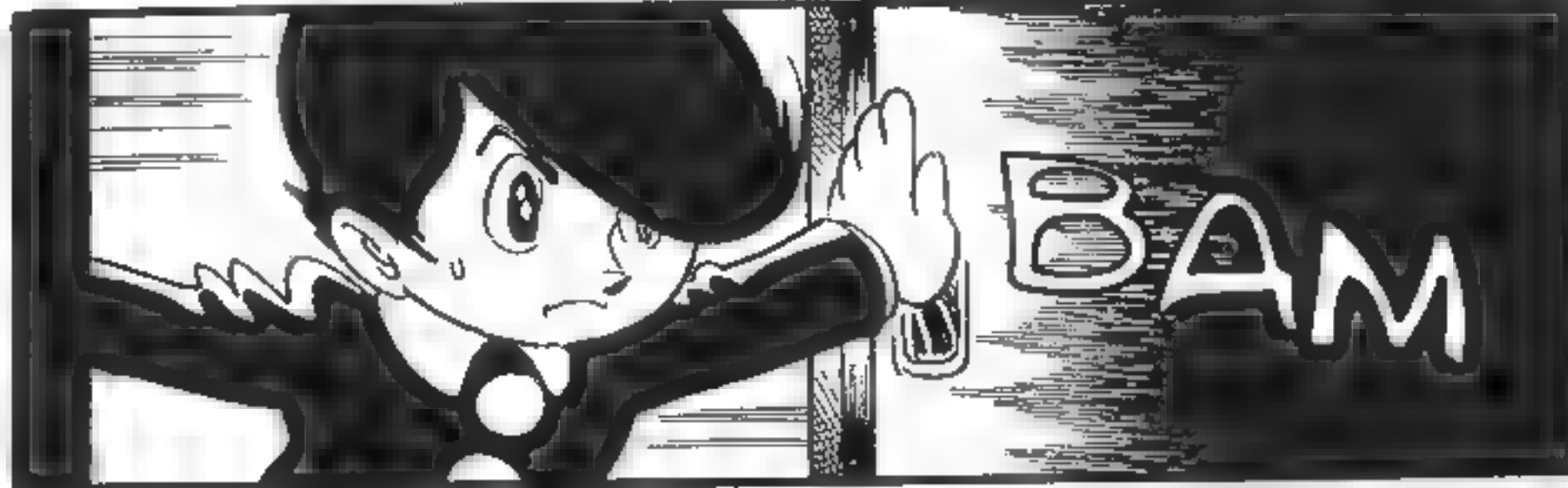
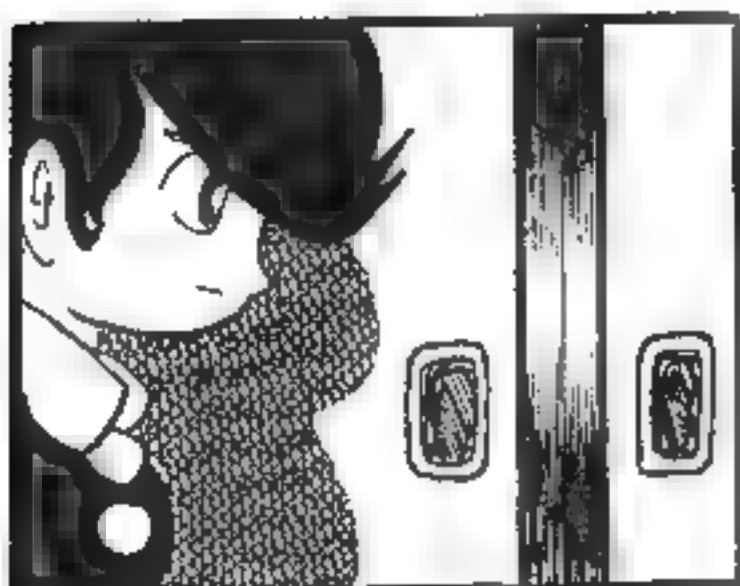
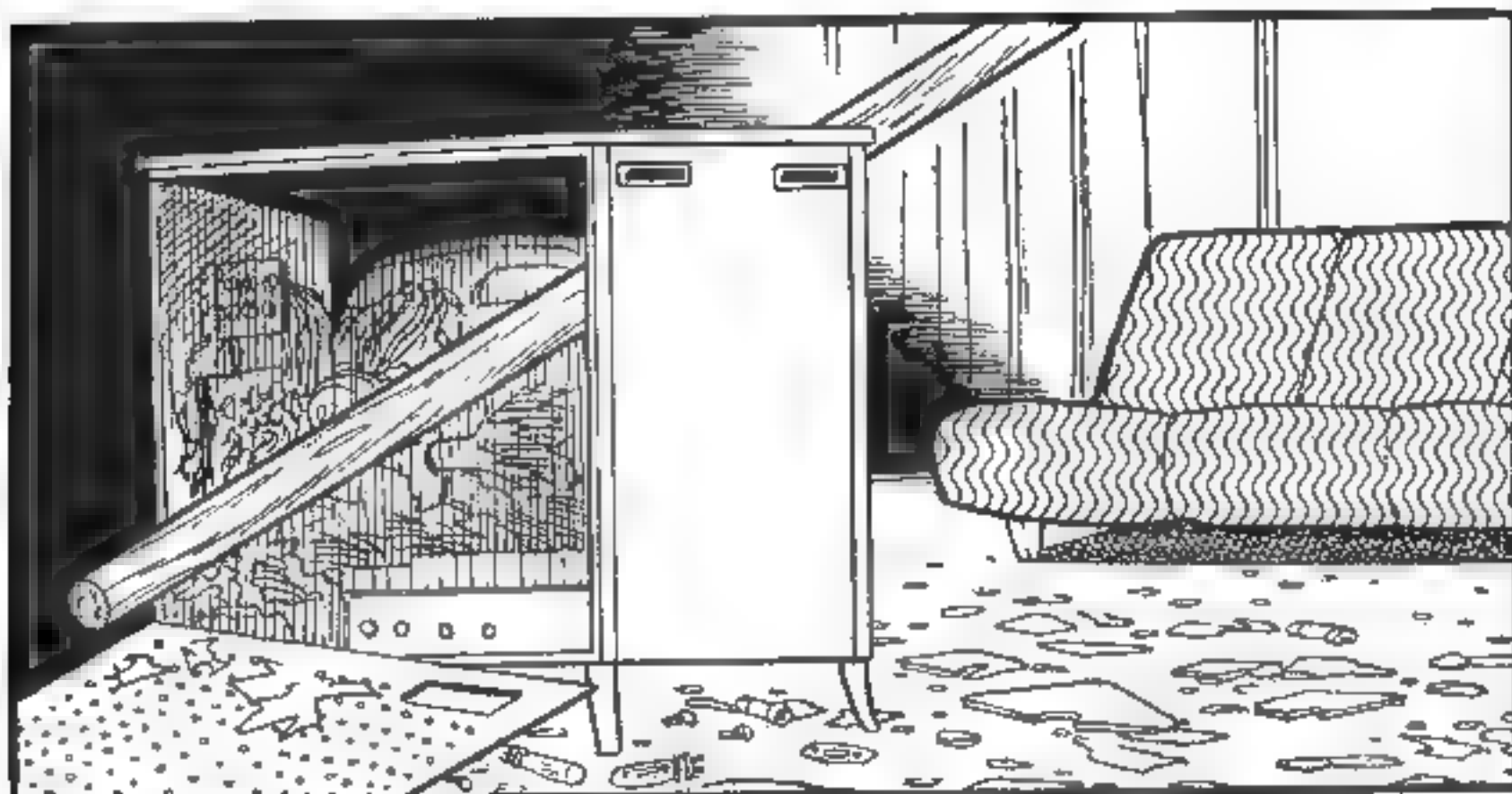
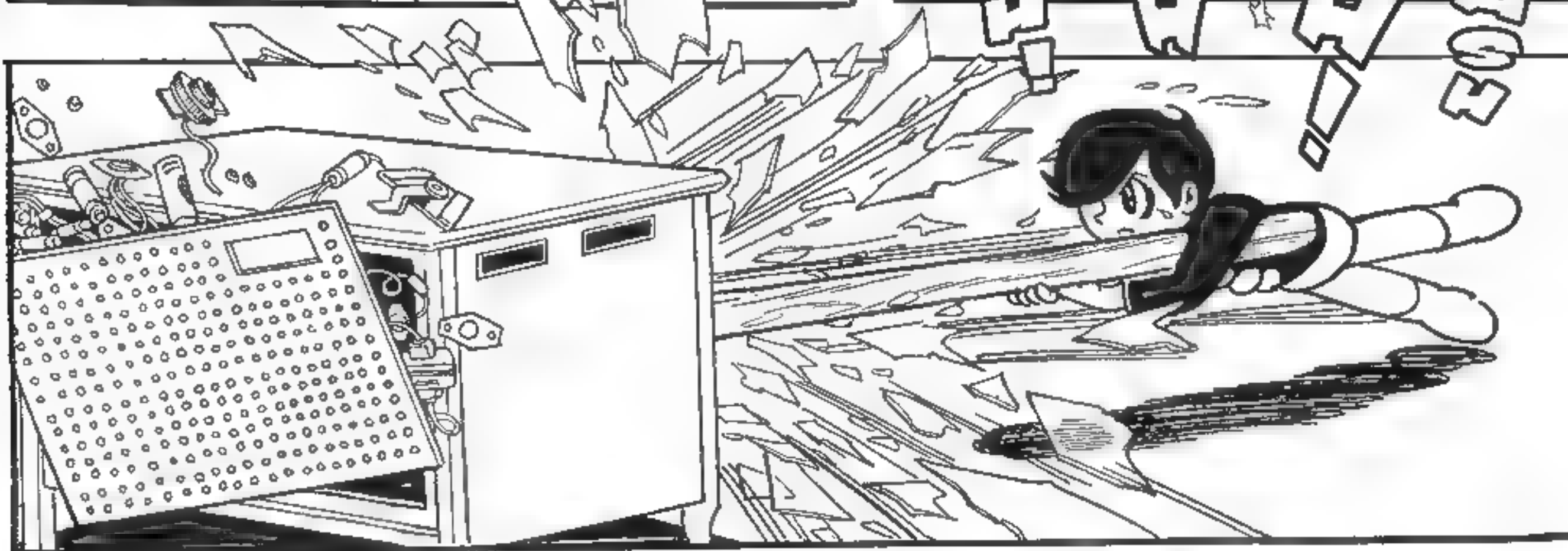


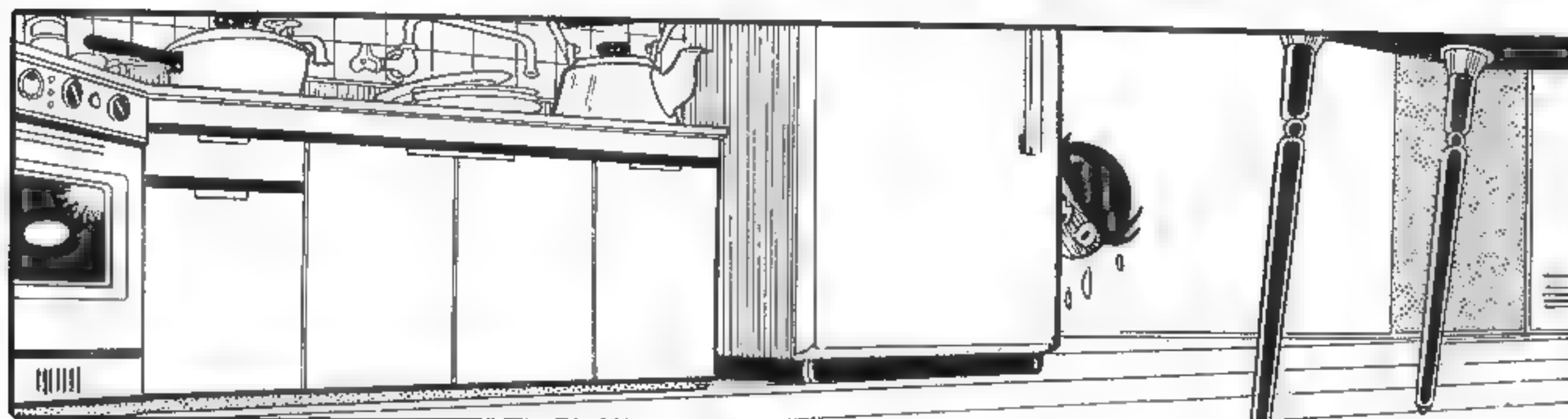


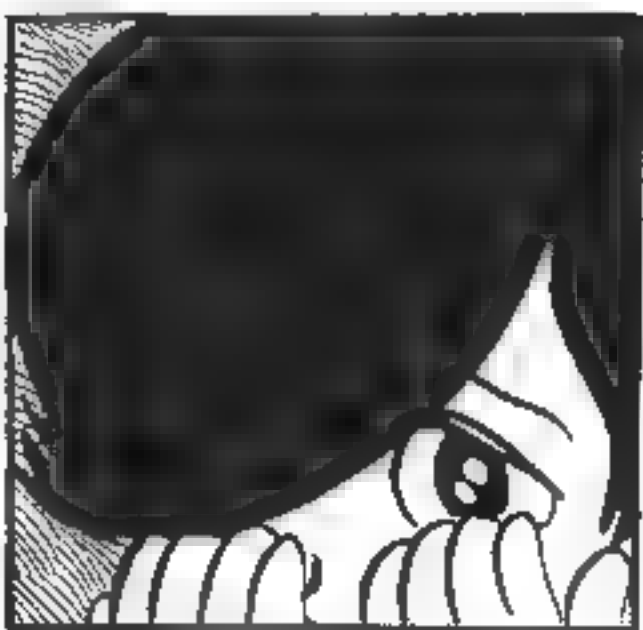
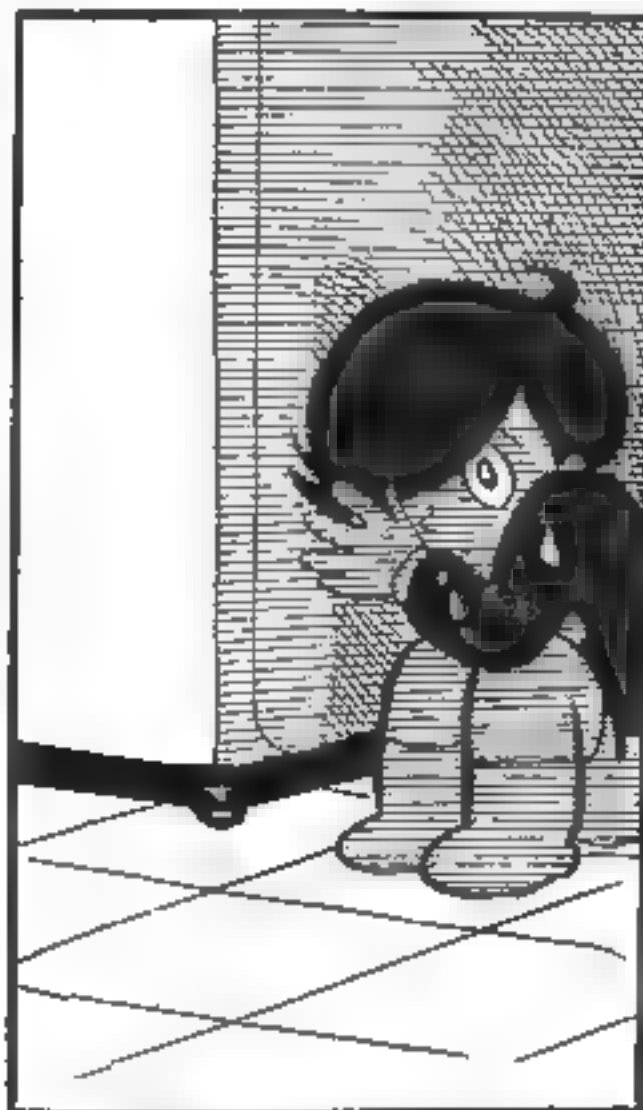
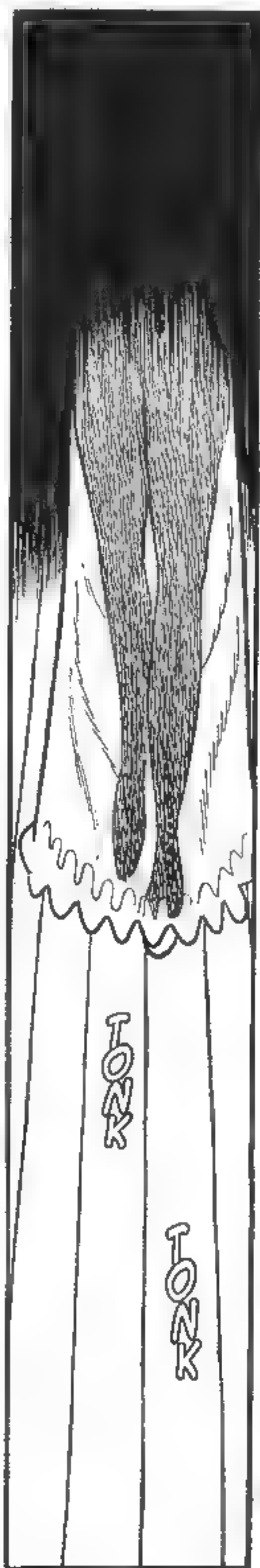
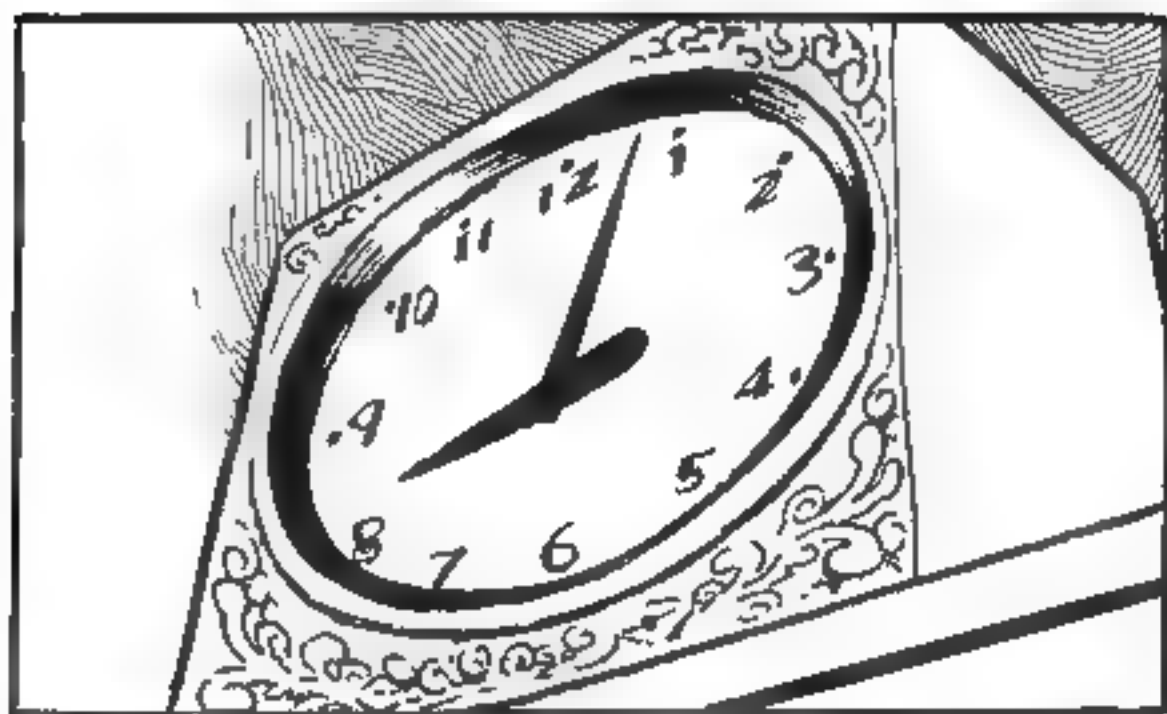
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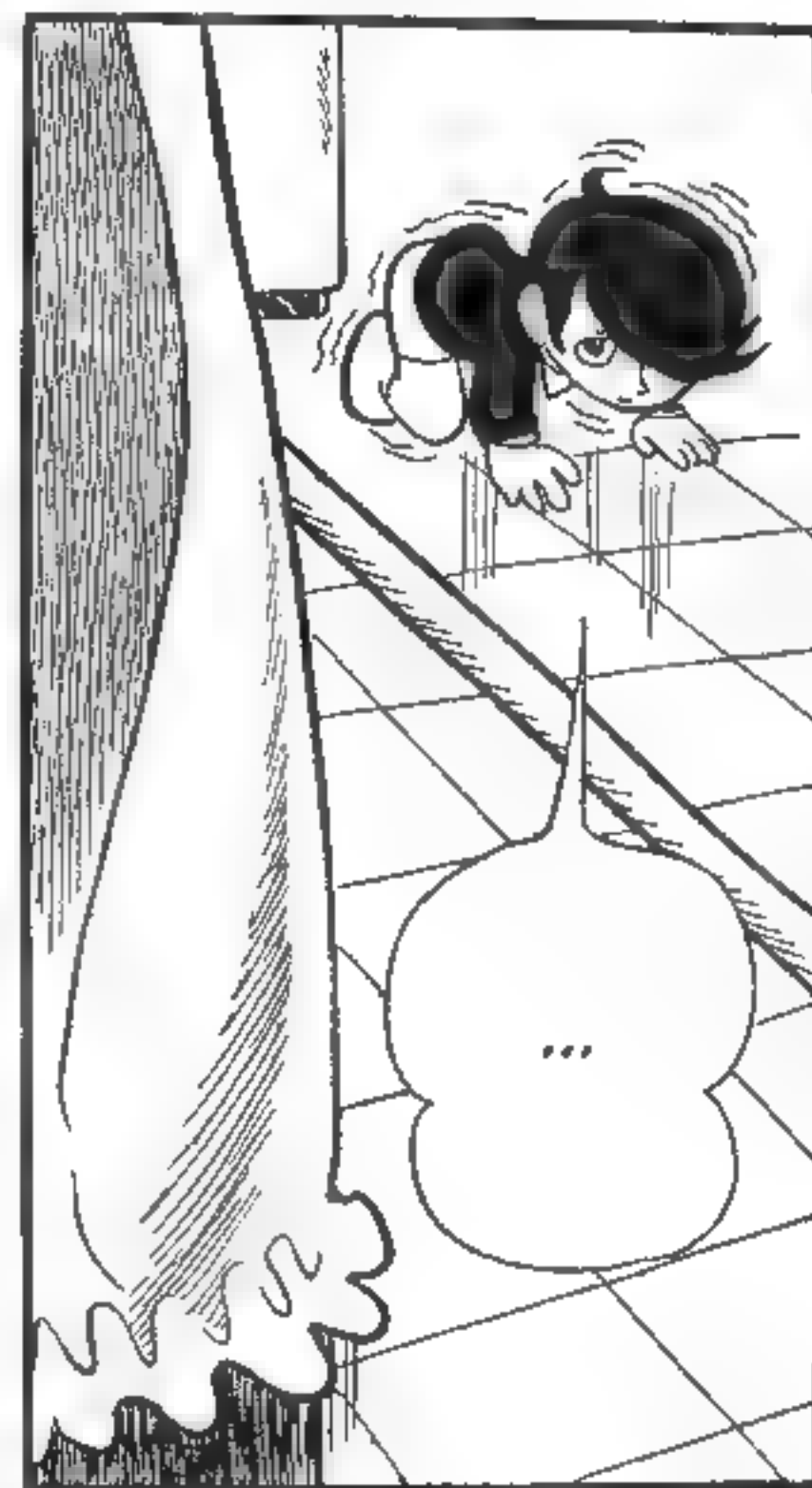


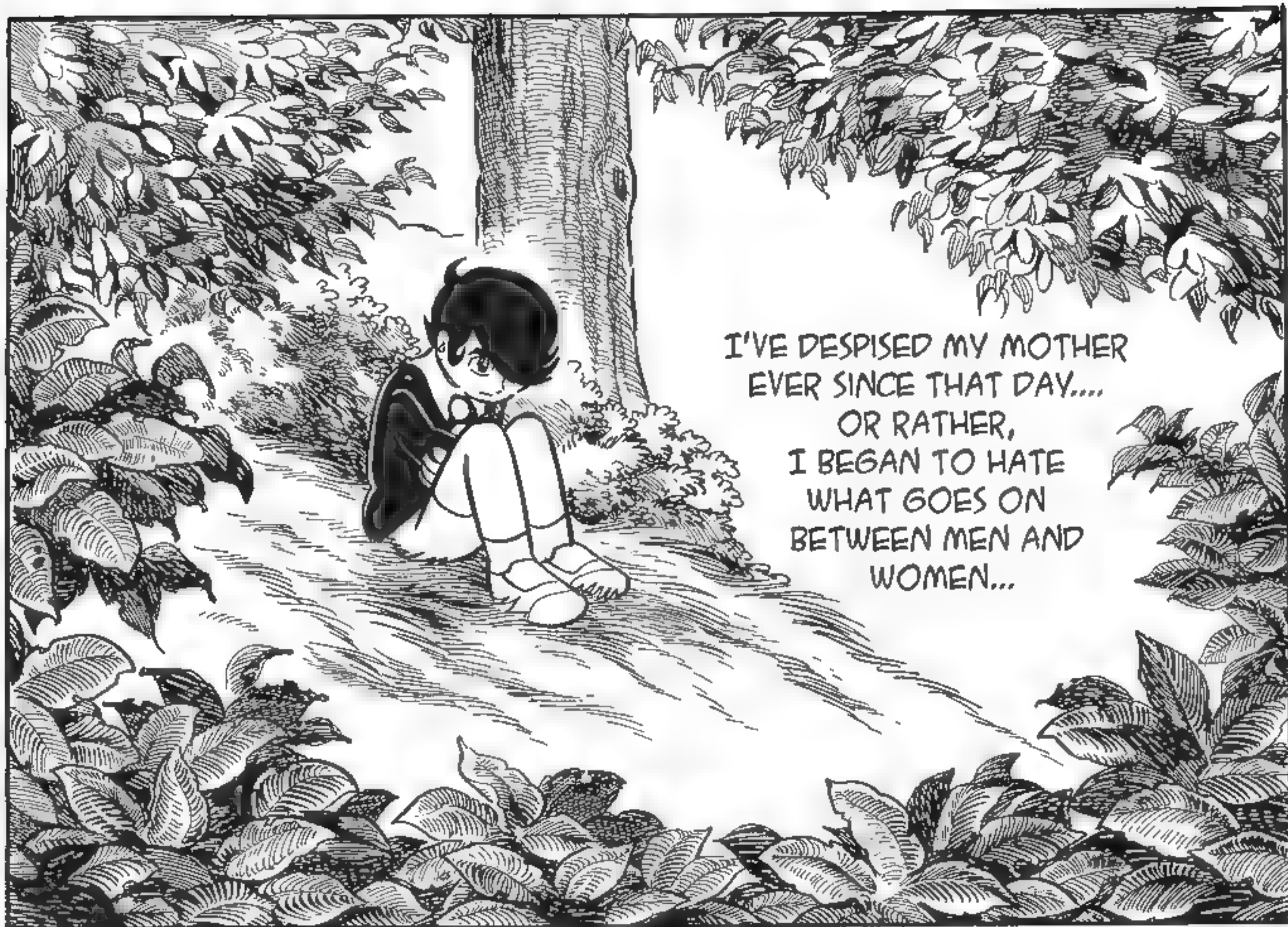






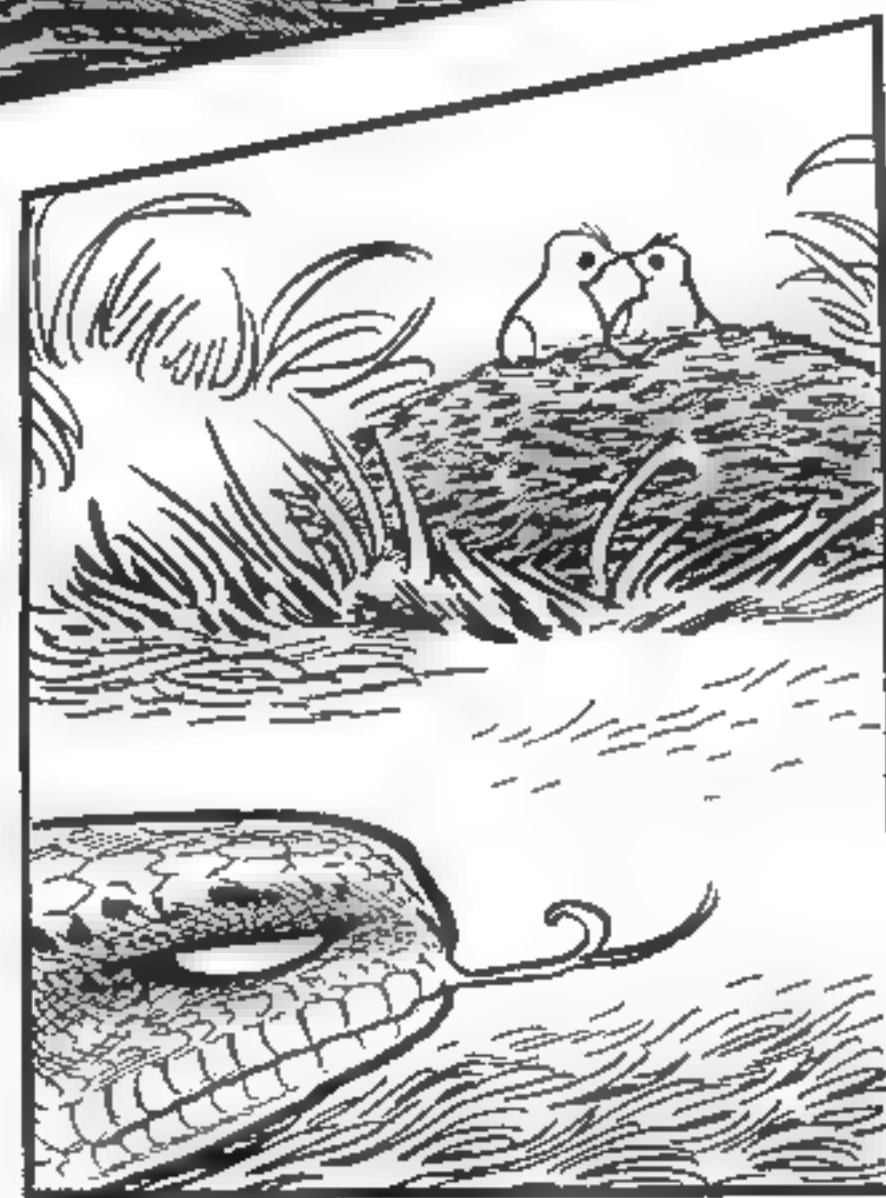
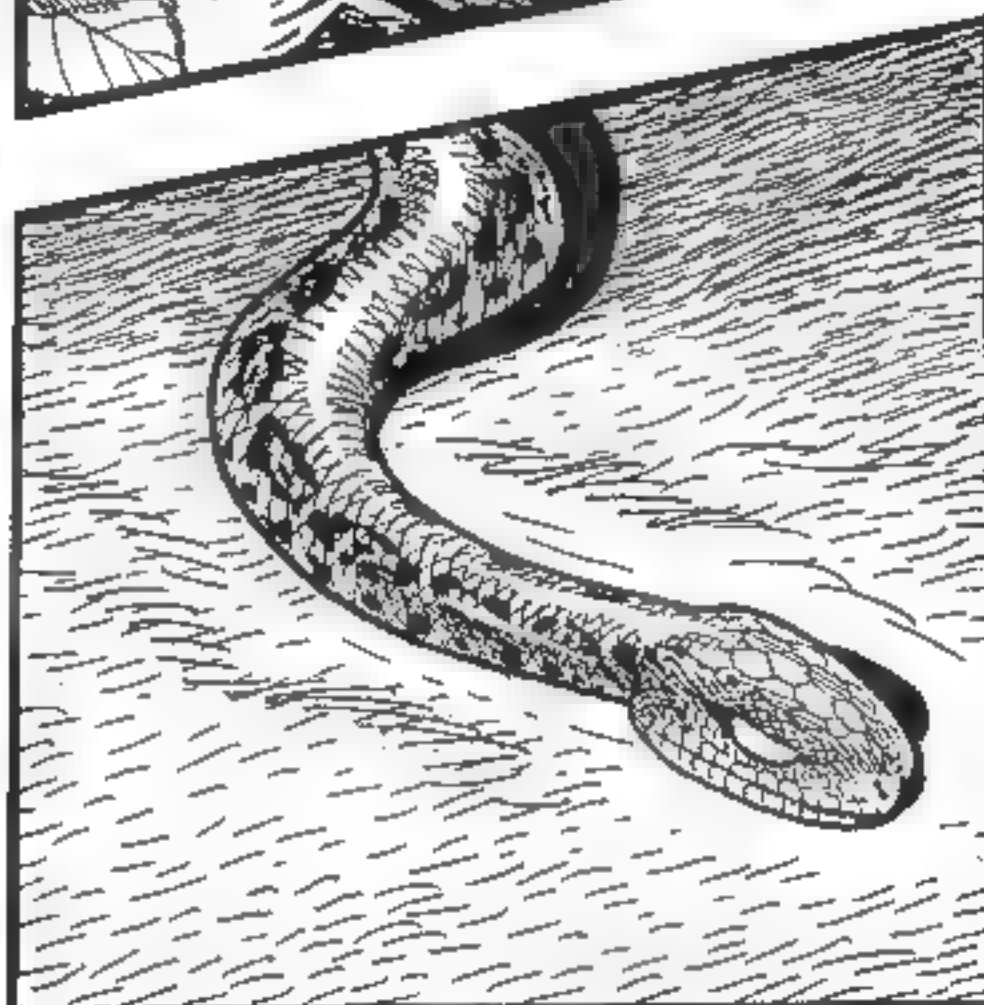


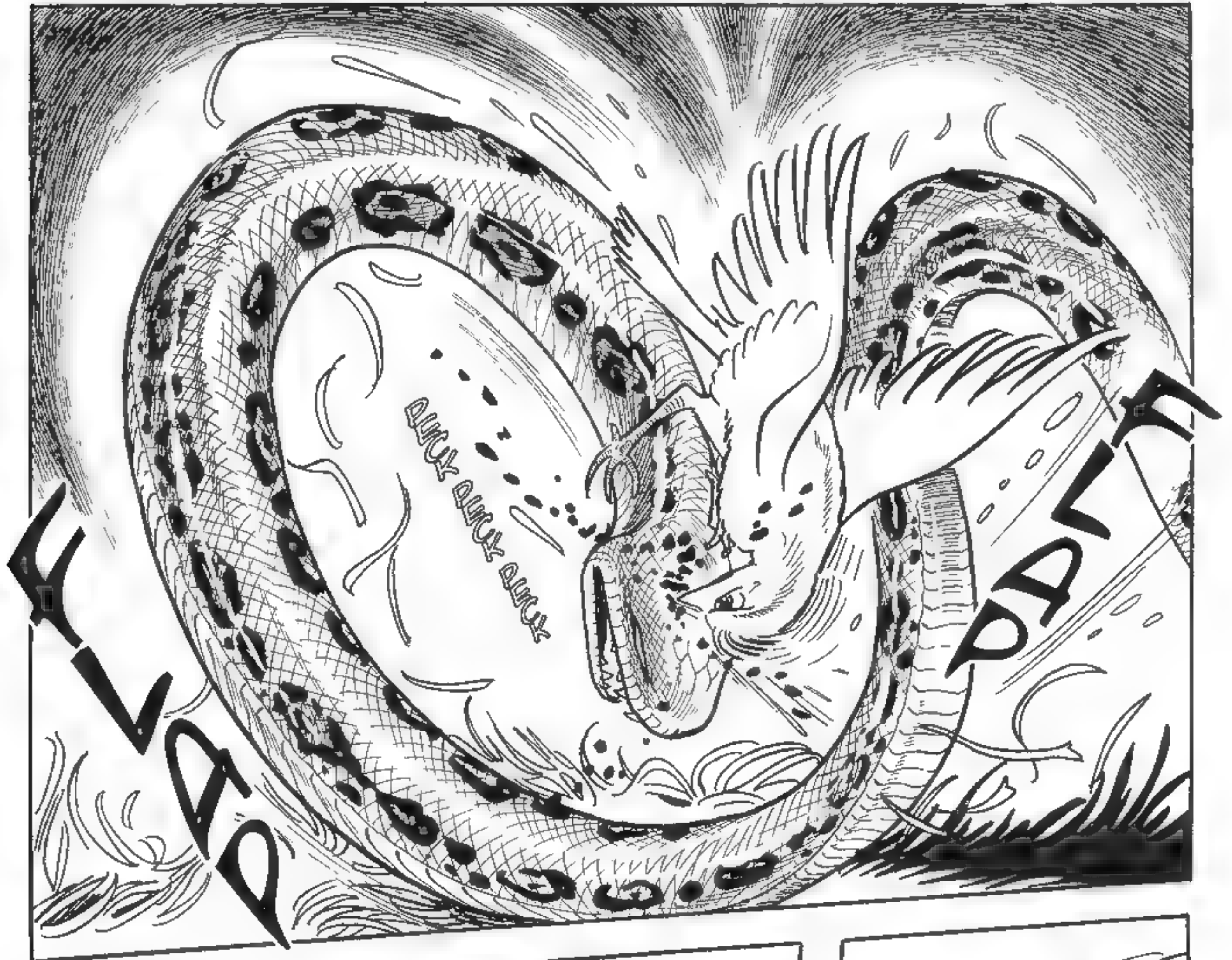


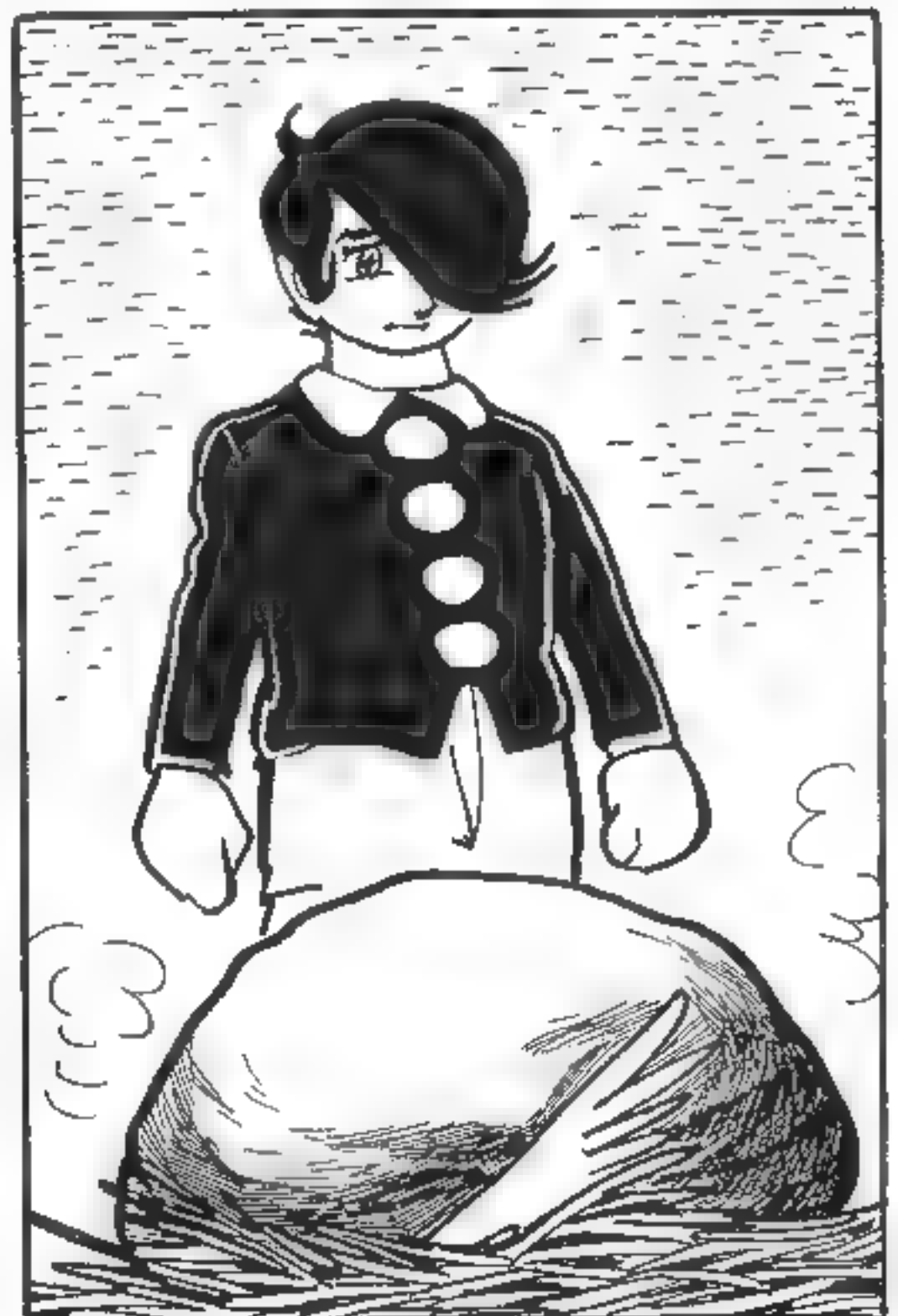
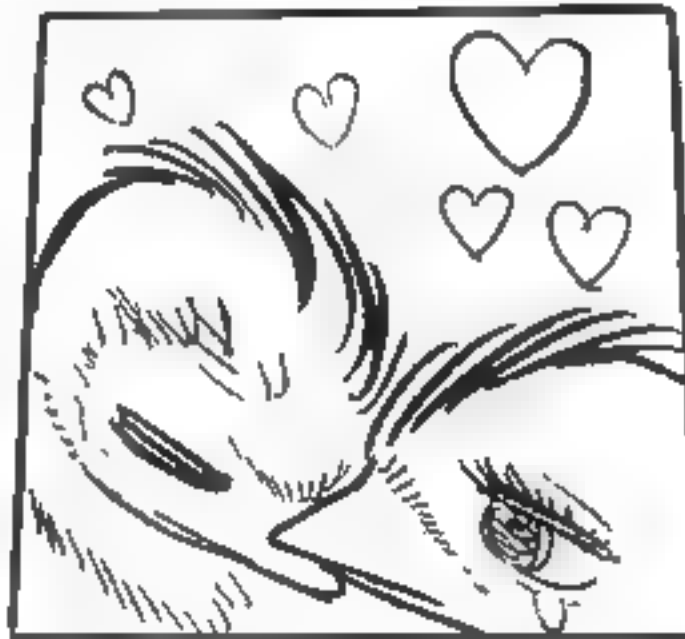
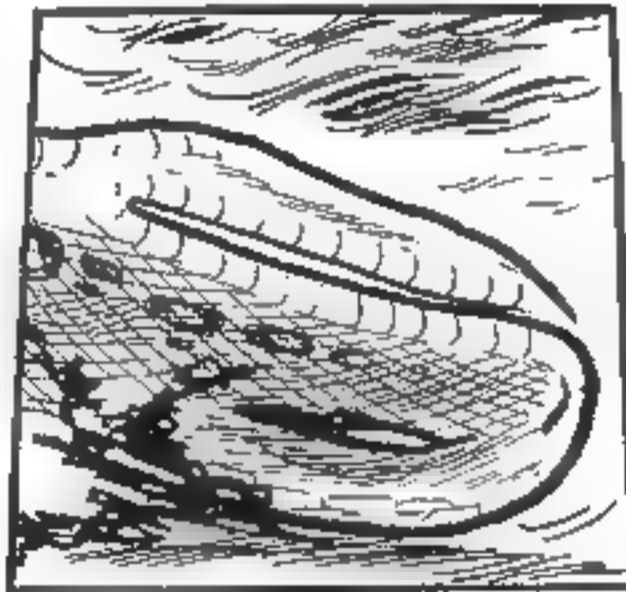
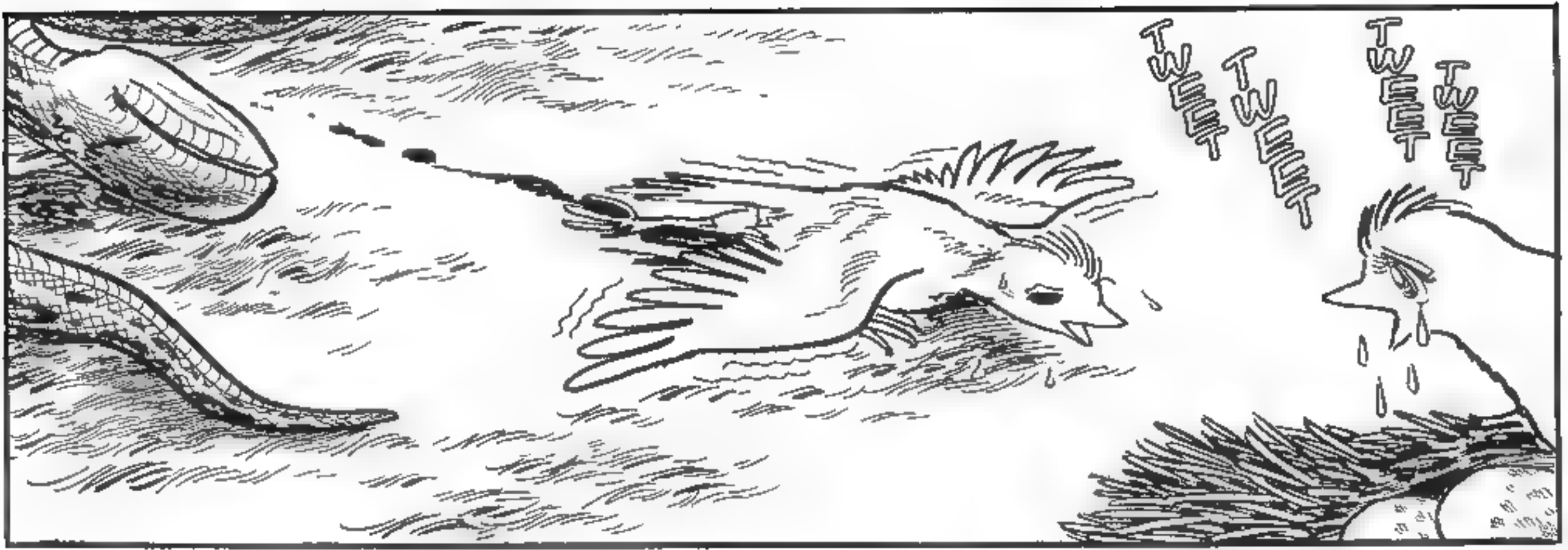


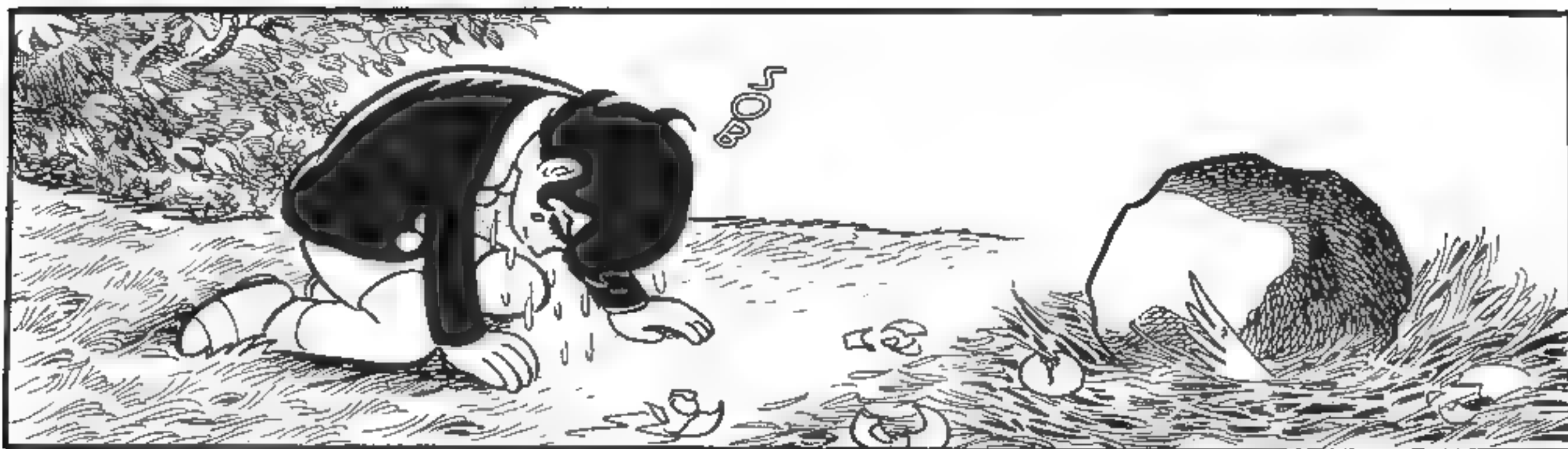
I'VE DESPISED MY MOTHER
EVER SINCE THAT DAY....
OR RATHER,
I BEGAN TO HATE
WHAT GOES ON
BETWEEN MEN AND
WOMEN...

IT'S NOT JUST
HUMANS, EITHER.
WHEN I SEE
MALE AND FEMALE
ANIMALS SHOWING
TENDERNESS
TO ONE
ANOTHER,
I JUST WANT
TO KILL THEM.









THAT'S ALL.

I'VE SAID IT ALL.



SHOGO, THOU MUST BE PUNISHED.

WHY?
ISN'T IT ENOUGH
THAT
I'M IN THE
HOSPITAL?



THOU HAST
DISDAINED
THE BEAUTY
AND SANCTITY
OF LOVE.



NOW
RECEIVE
THY JUST
DESERTS!



THOU SHALT
LOVE
ONE WOMAN
AGAIN
AND AGAIN.
BUT BEFORE
THE TWO
ARE
UNITED
IN LOVE,
ONE SHALL
PERISH.



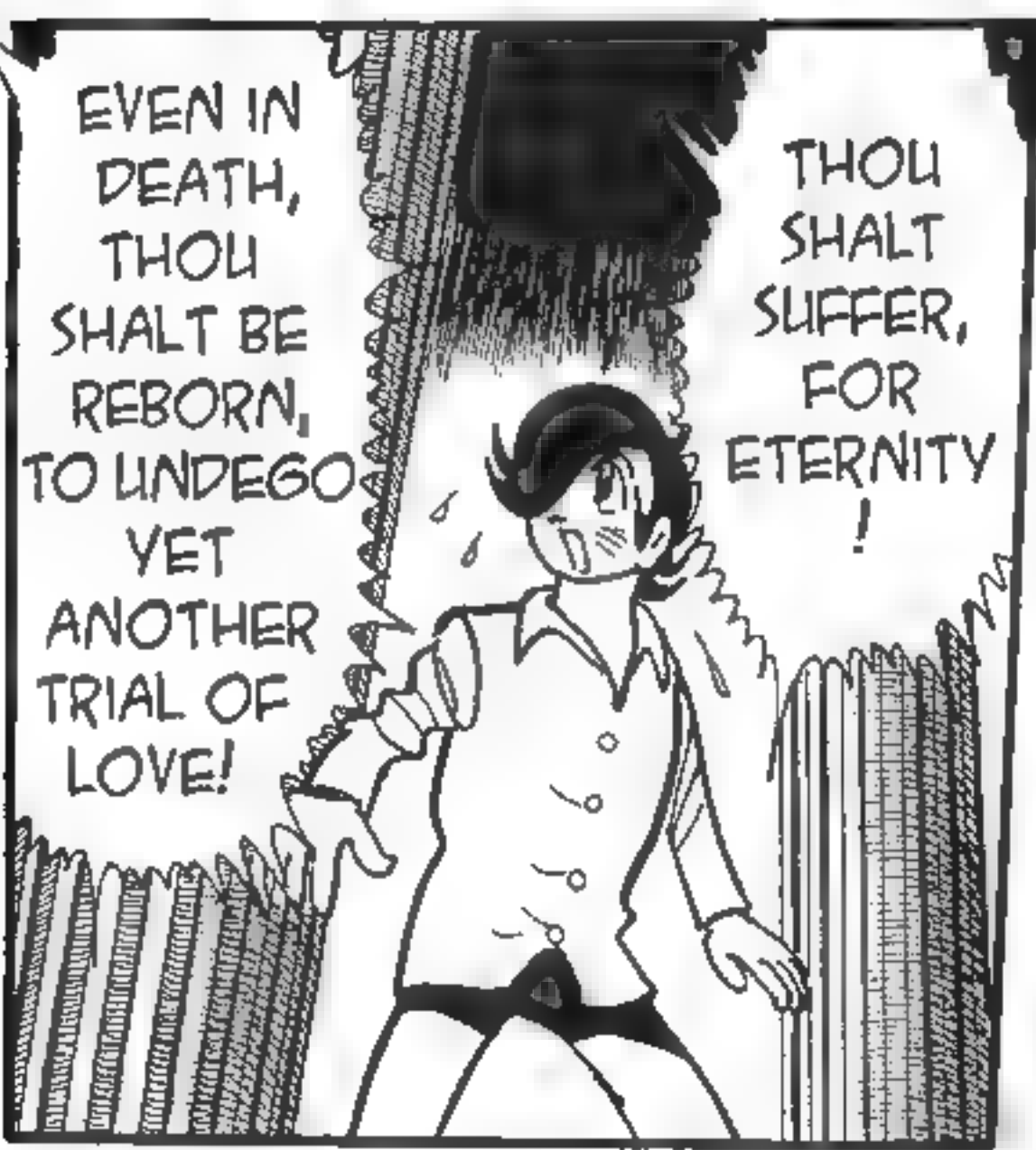
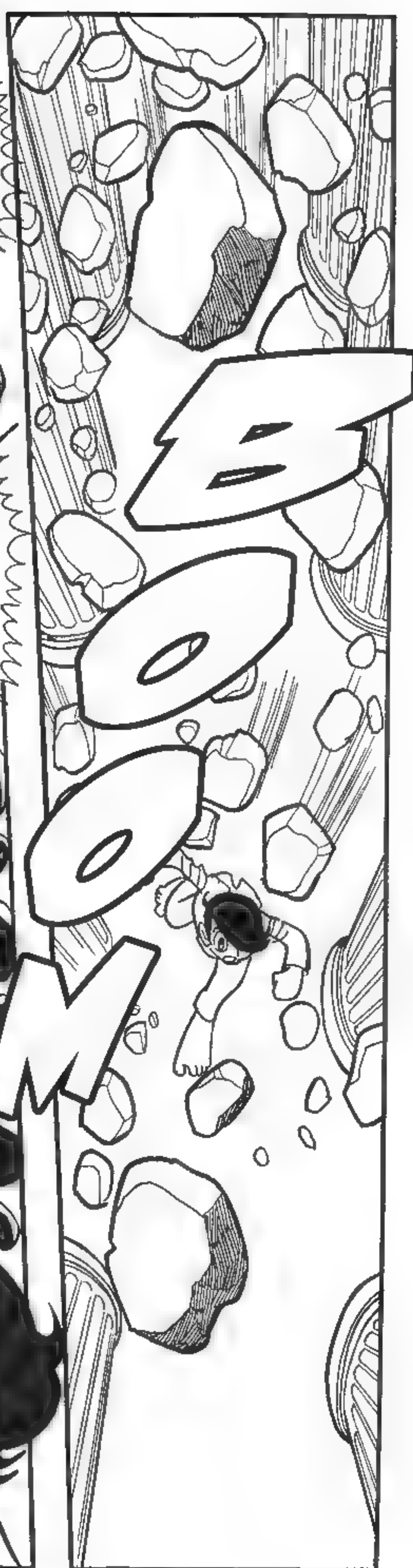
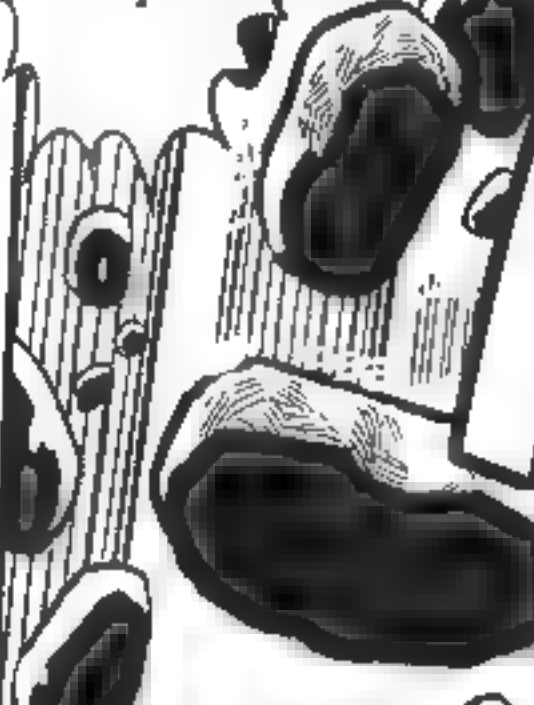
AWAKEN,
AND
BE
GONE!



MAY THY
TRIALS
COMMENCE,
AND
CONTINUE...



FOREVER!

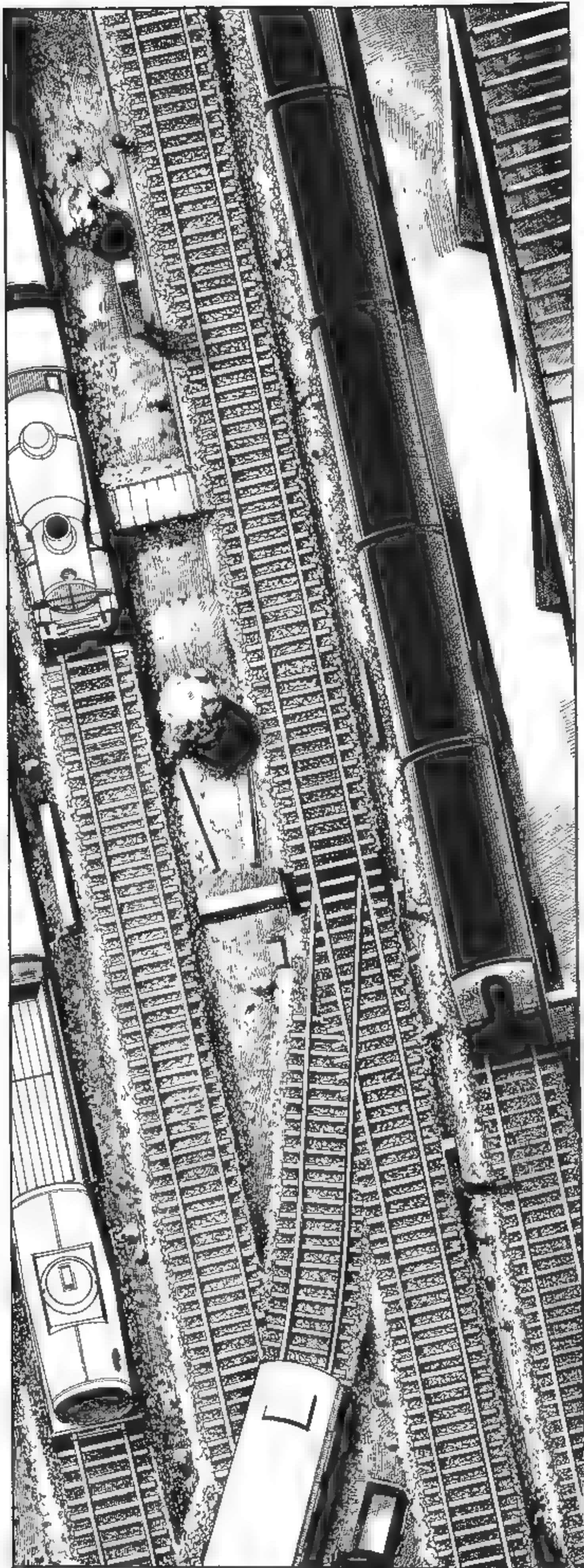


EVEN IN
DEATH,
THOU
SHALT BE
REBORN,
TO UNDEGO
YET
ANOTHER
TRIAL OF
LOVE!

THOU
SHALT
SUFFER,
FOR
ETERNITY
!



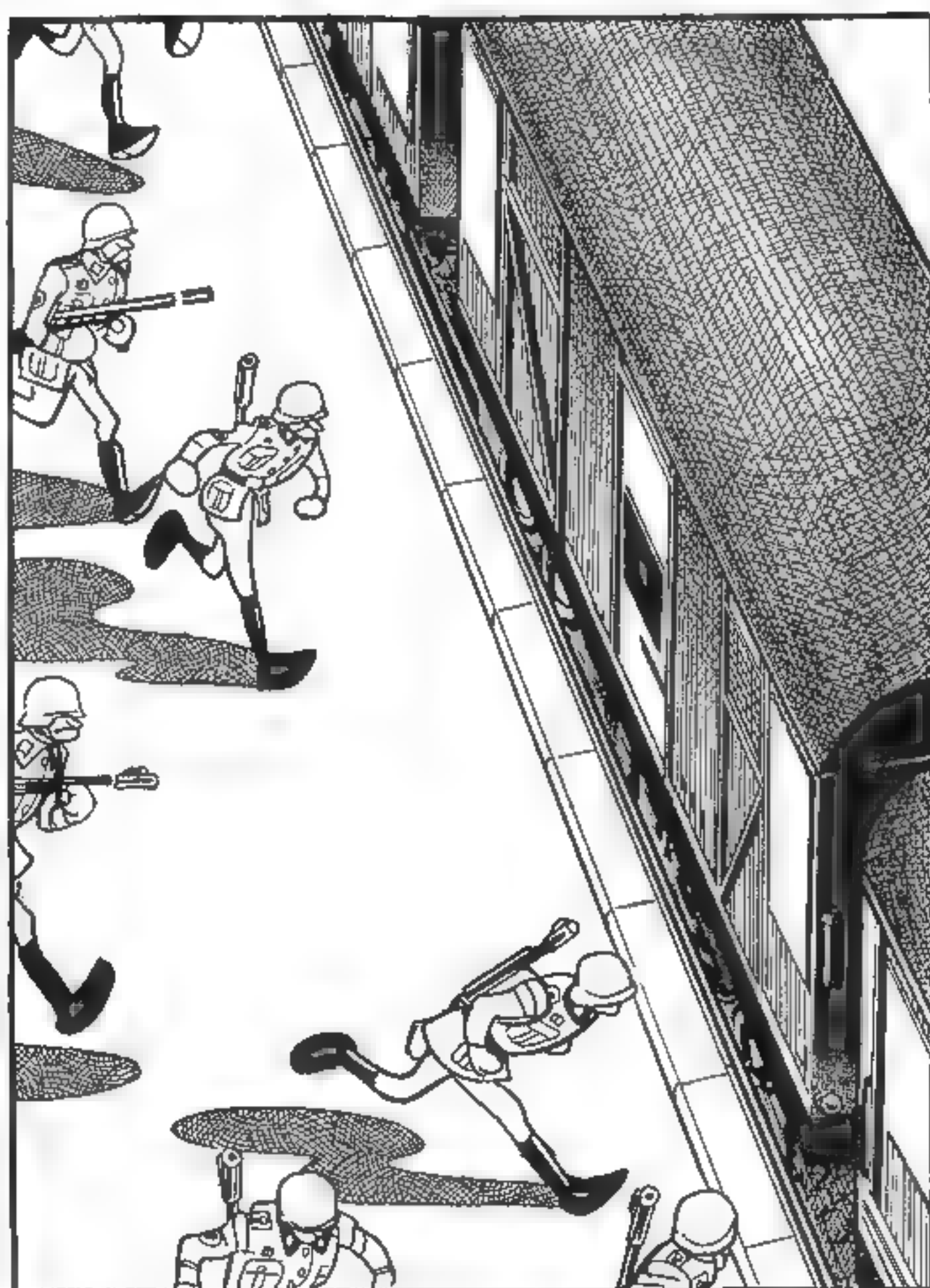


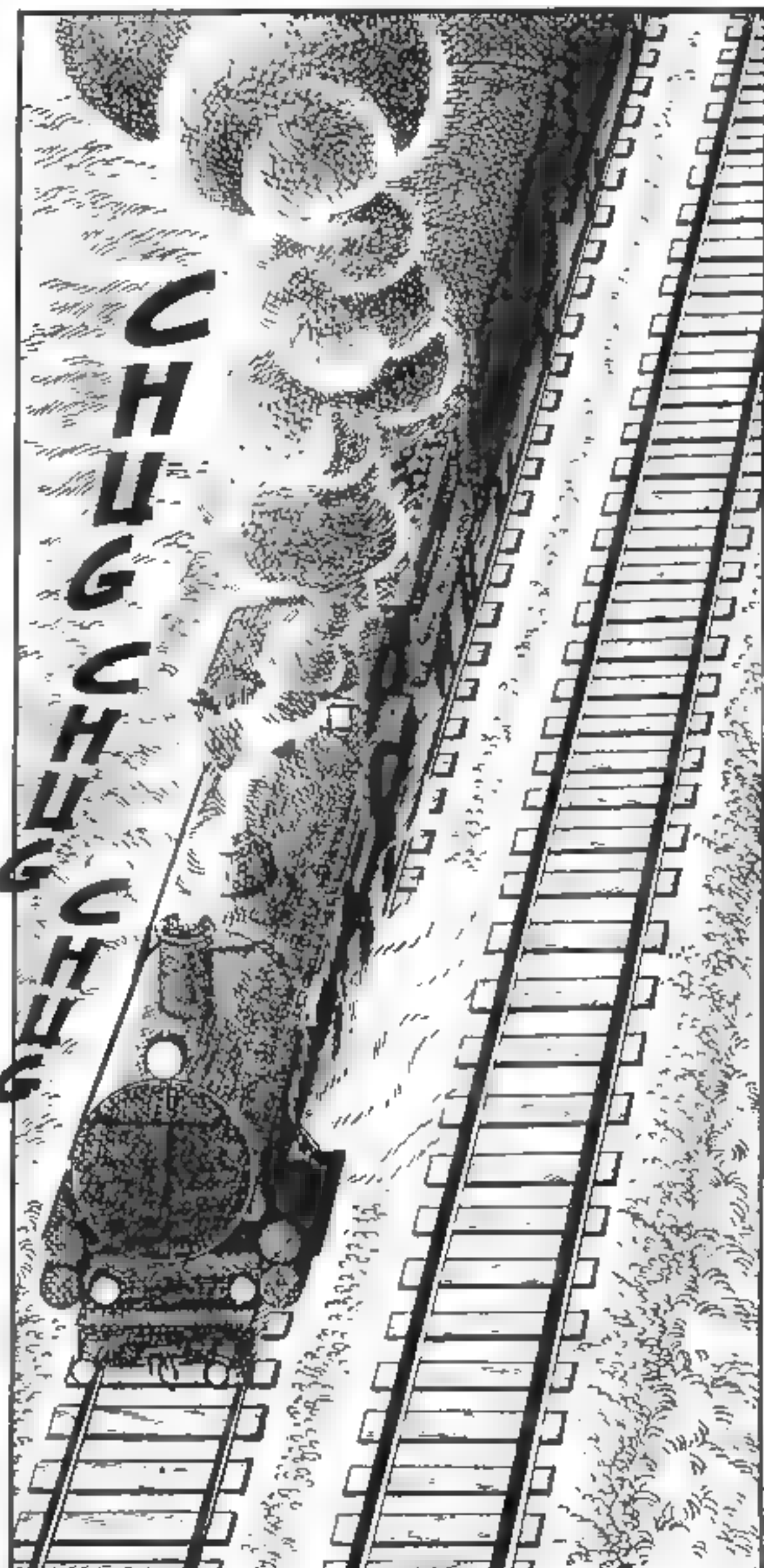
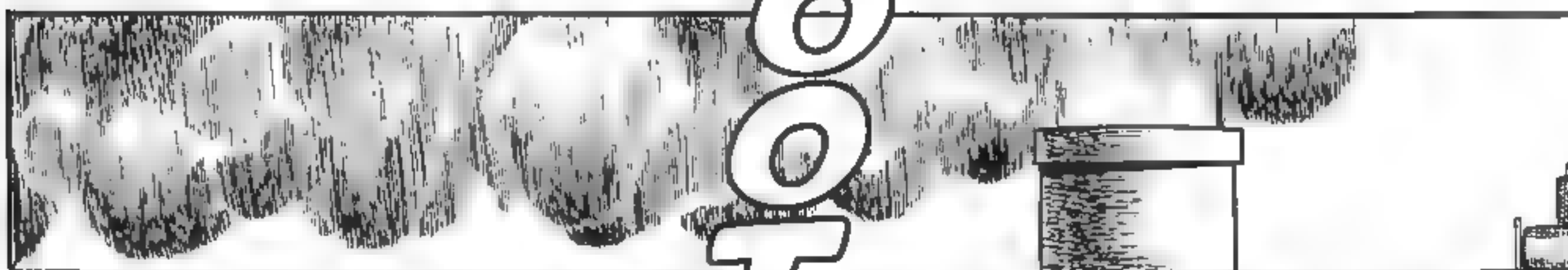
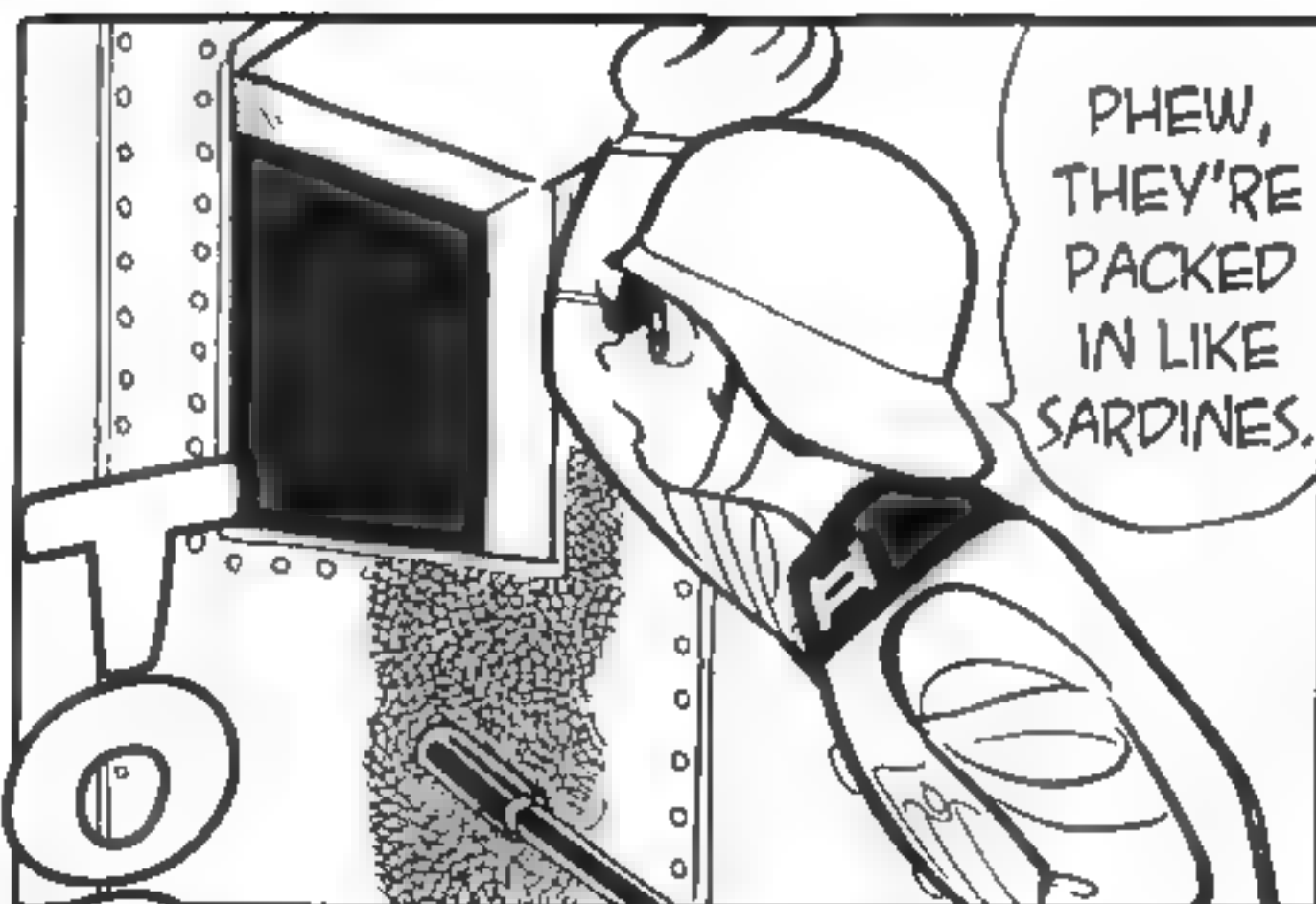


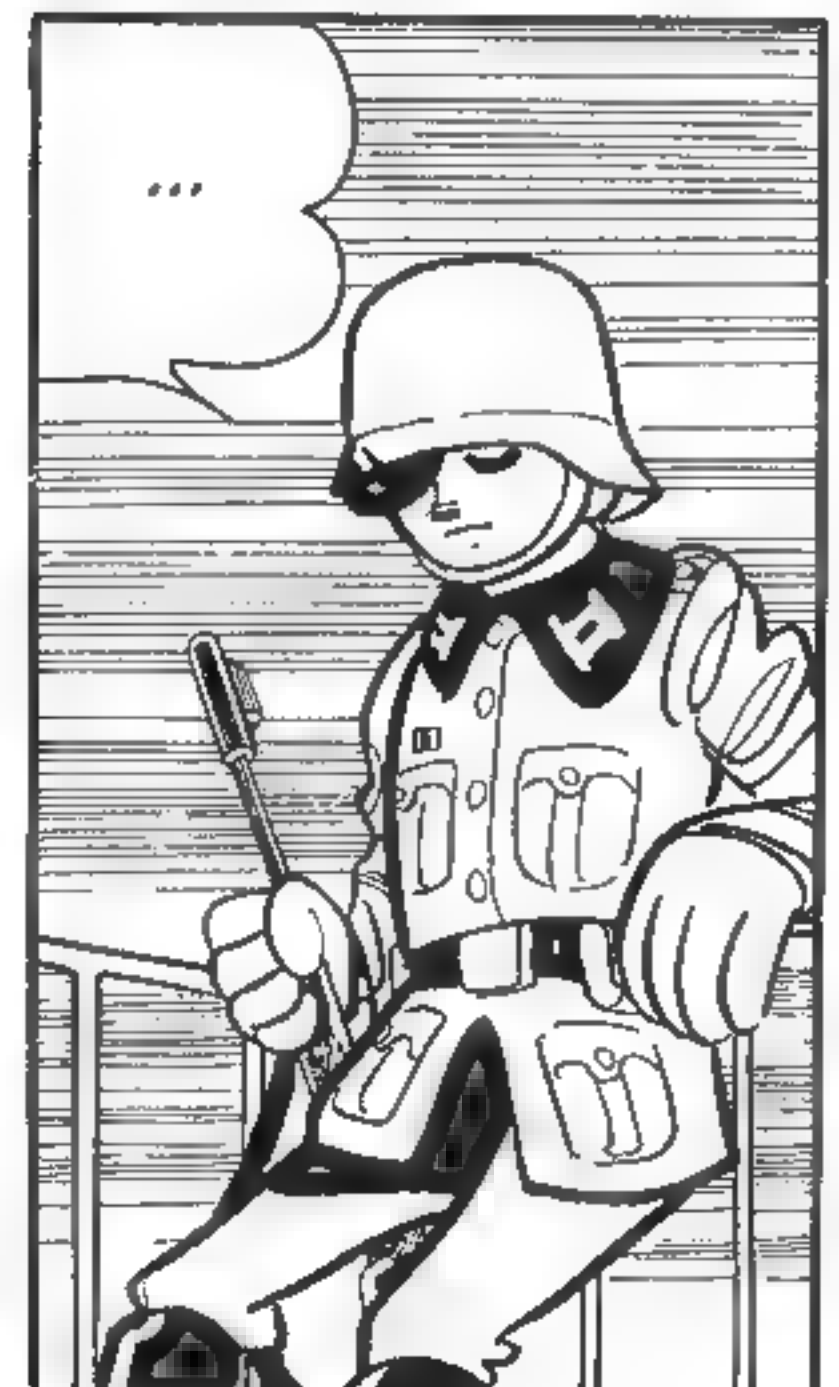
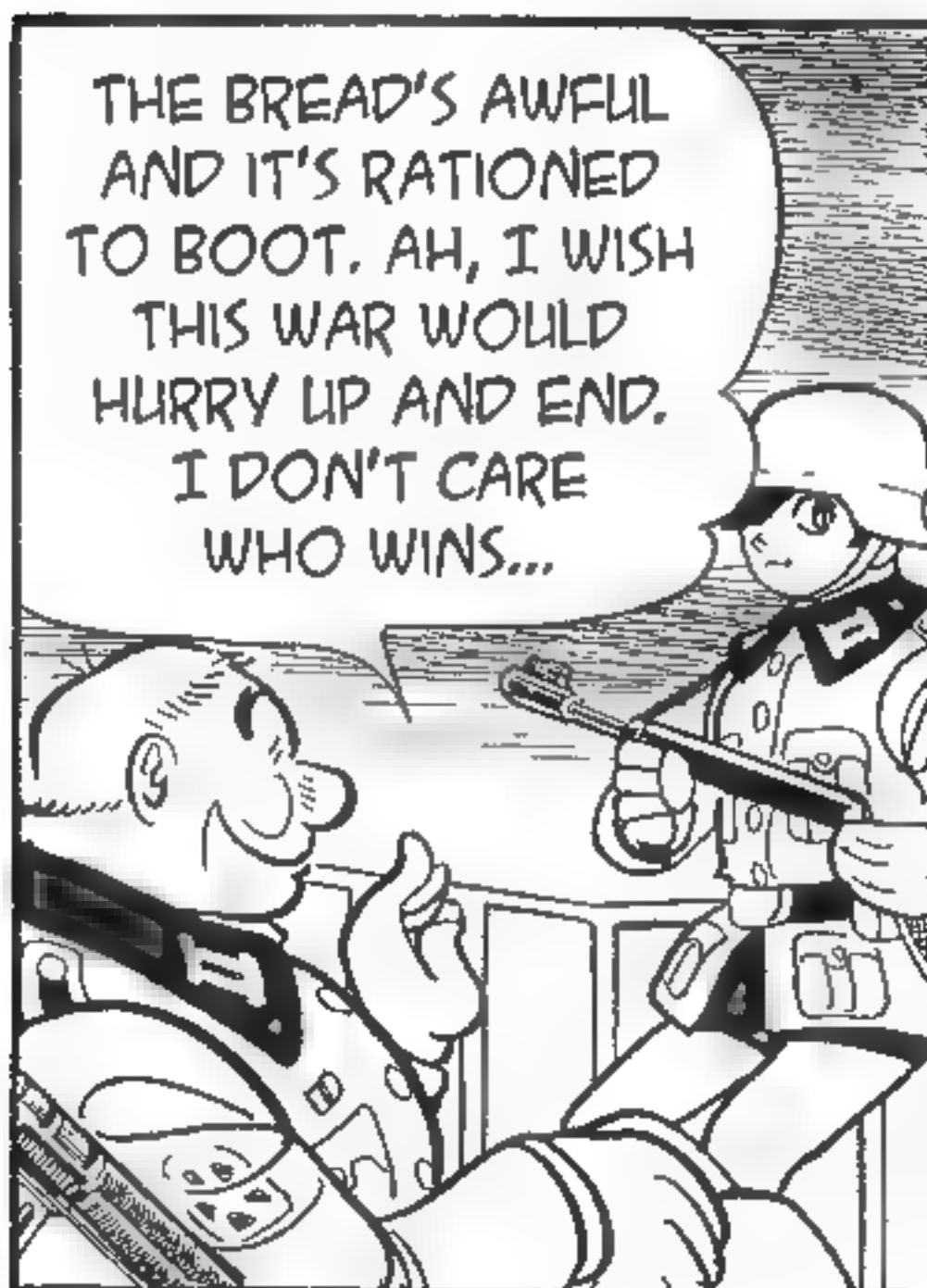
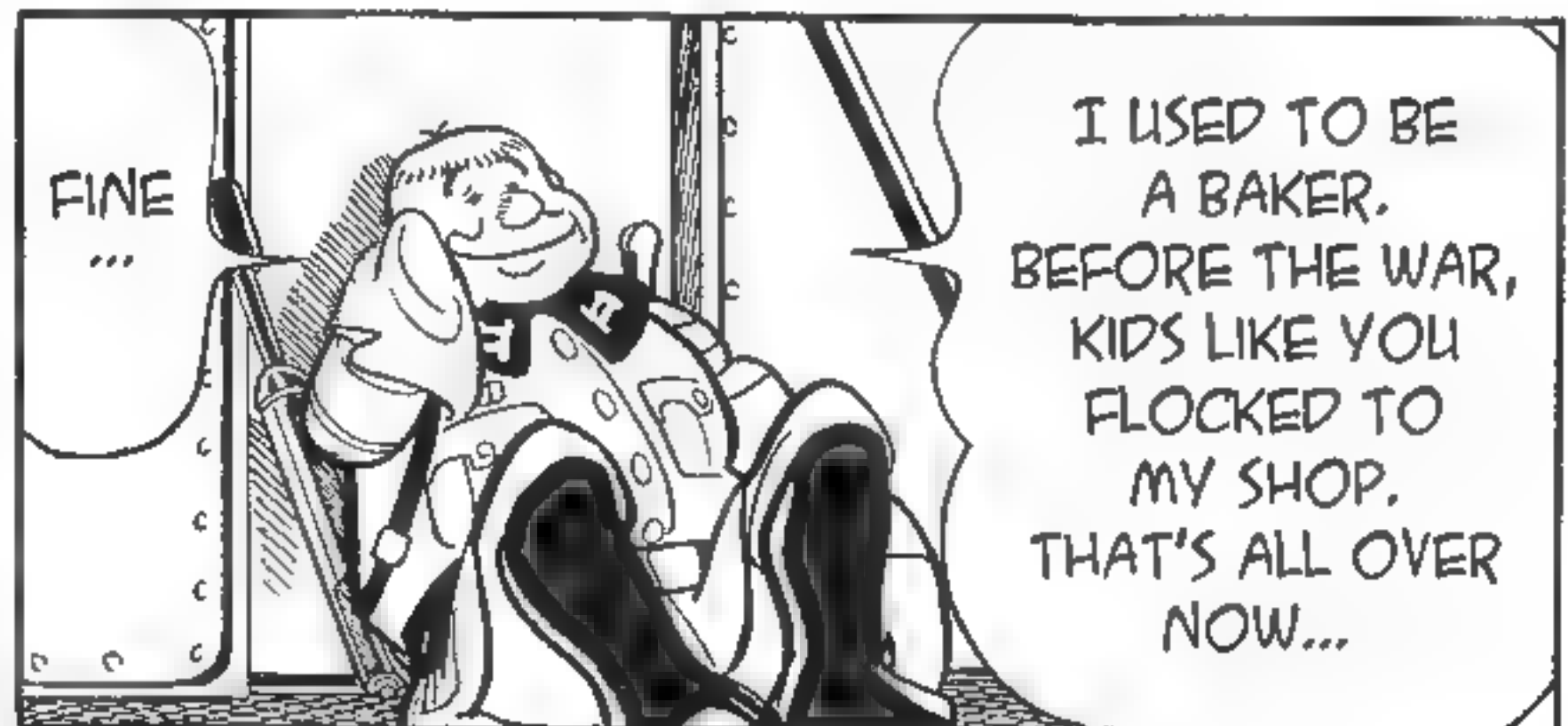
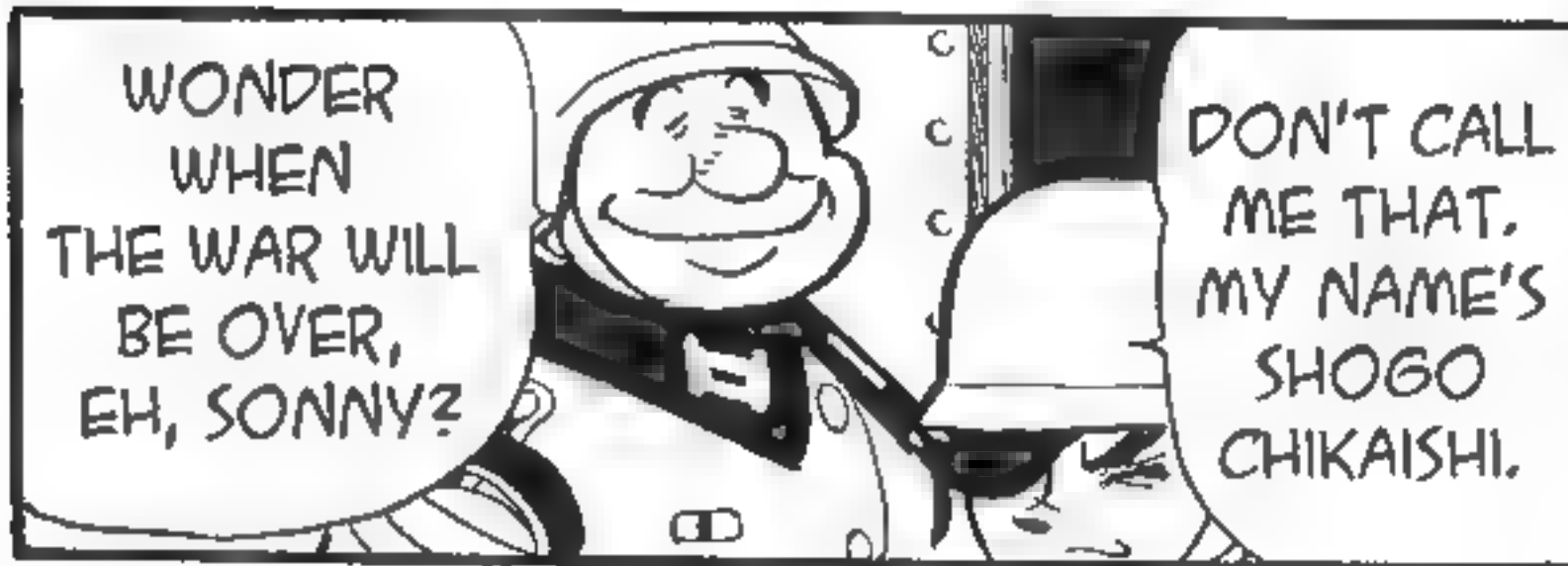
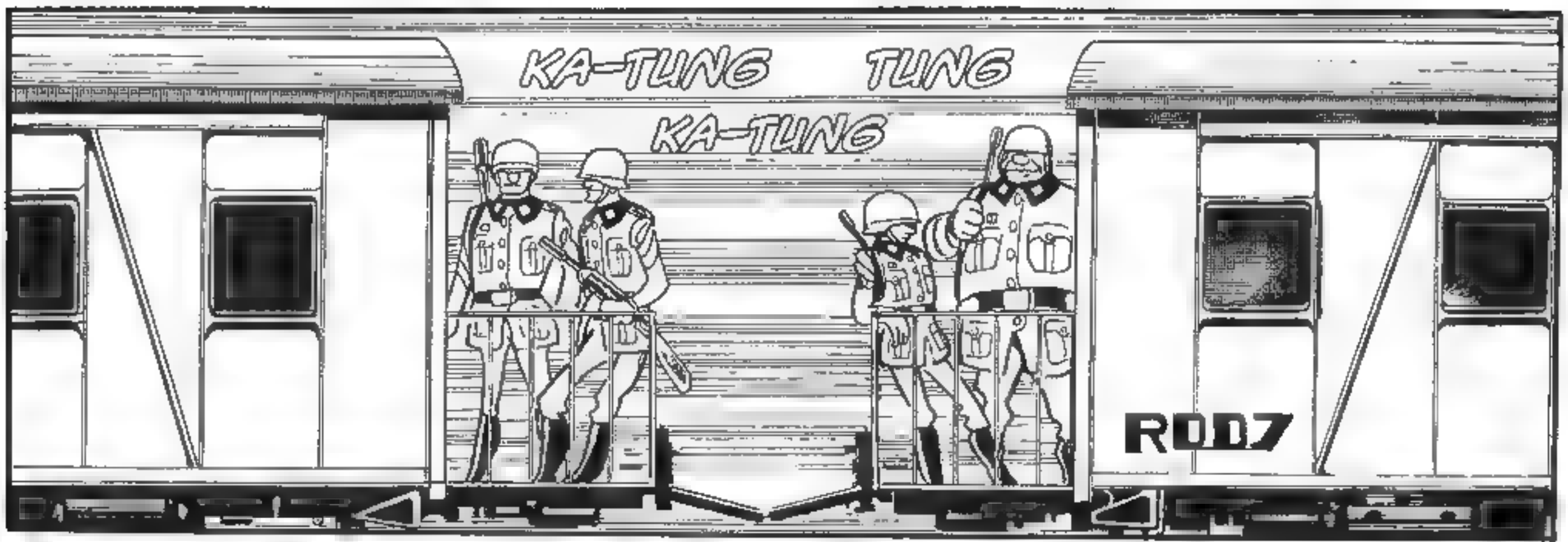


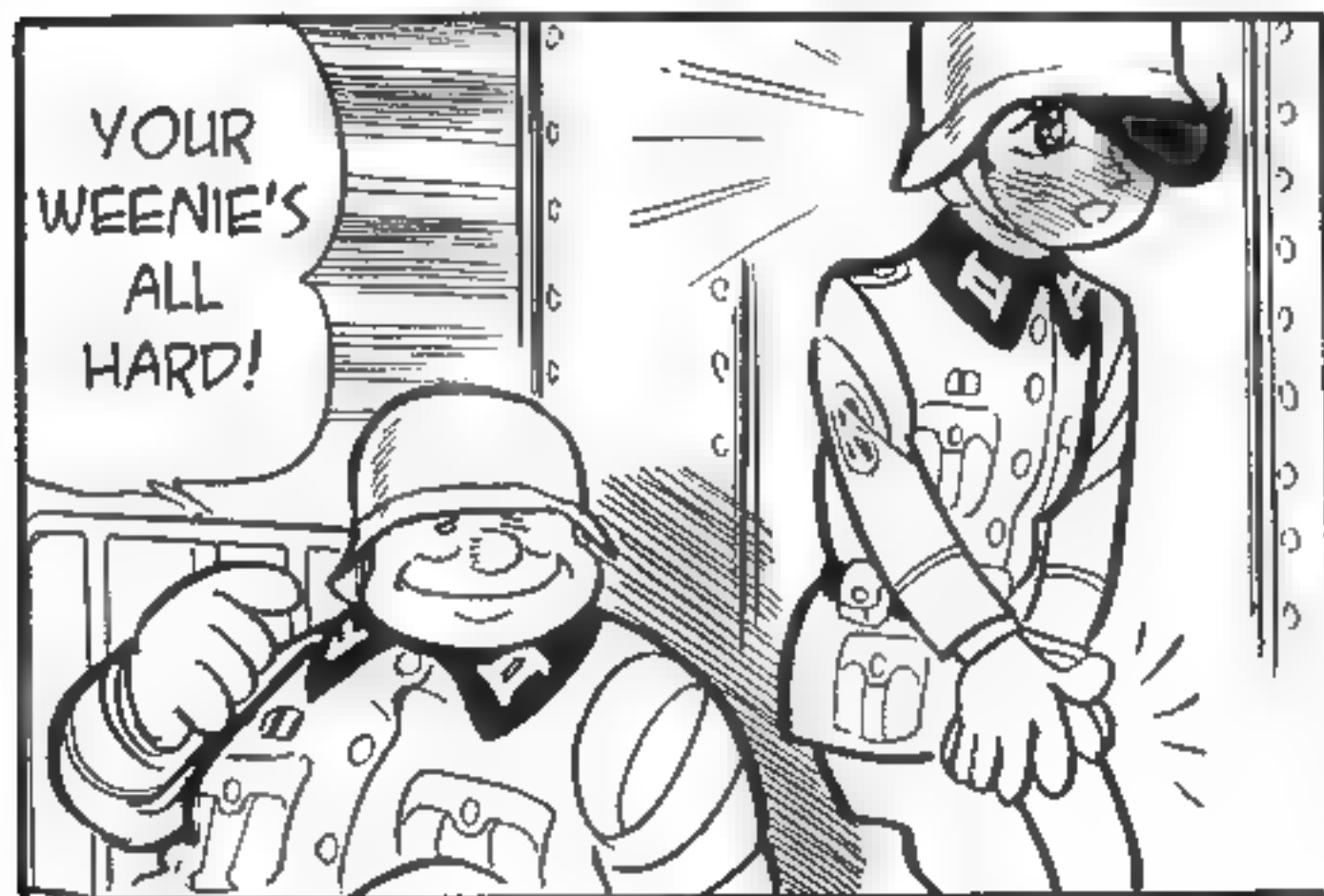
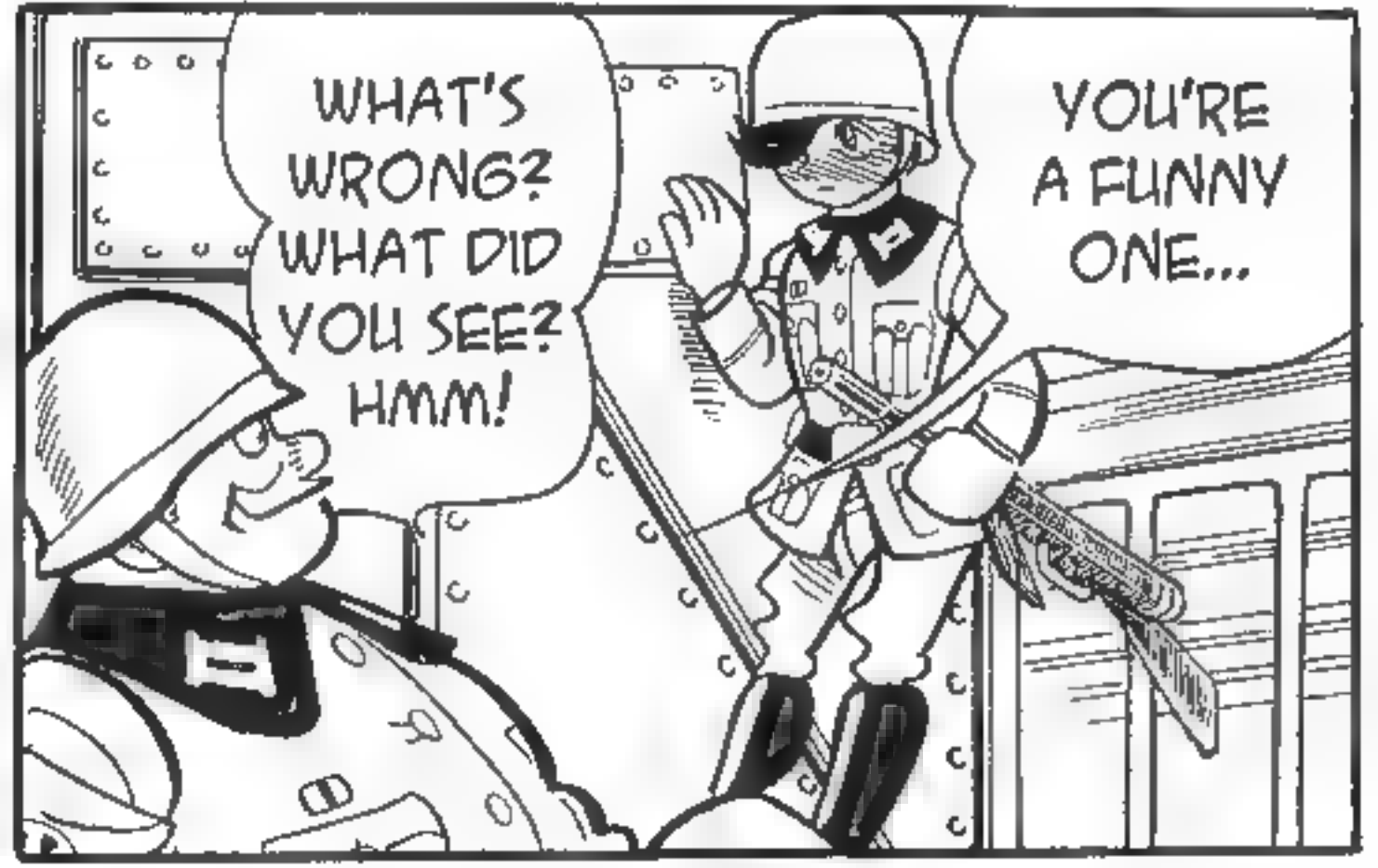
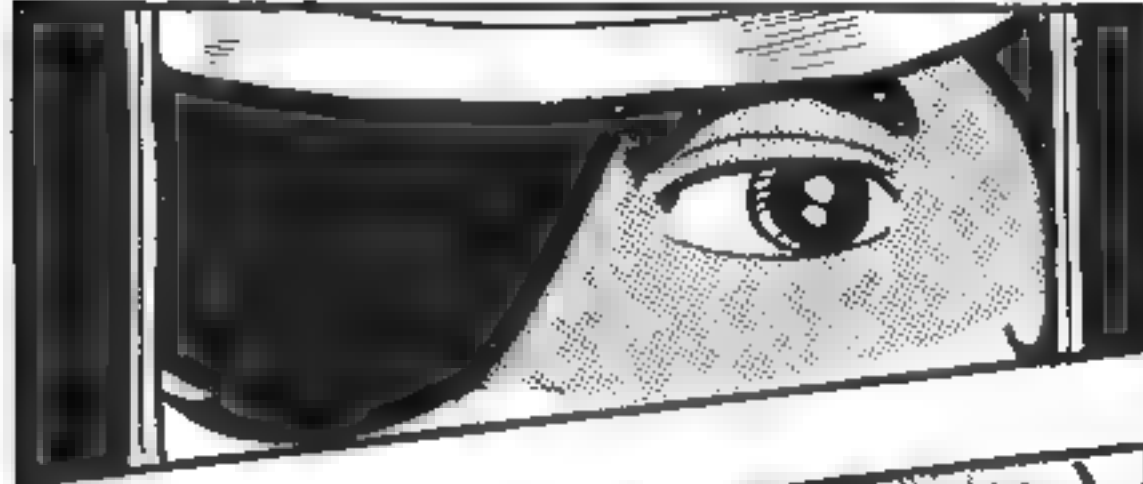
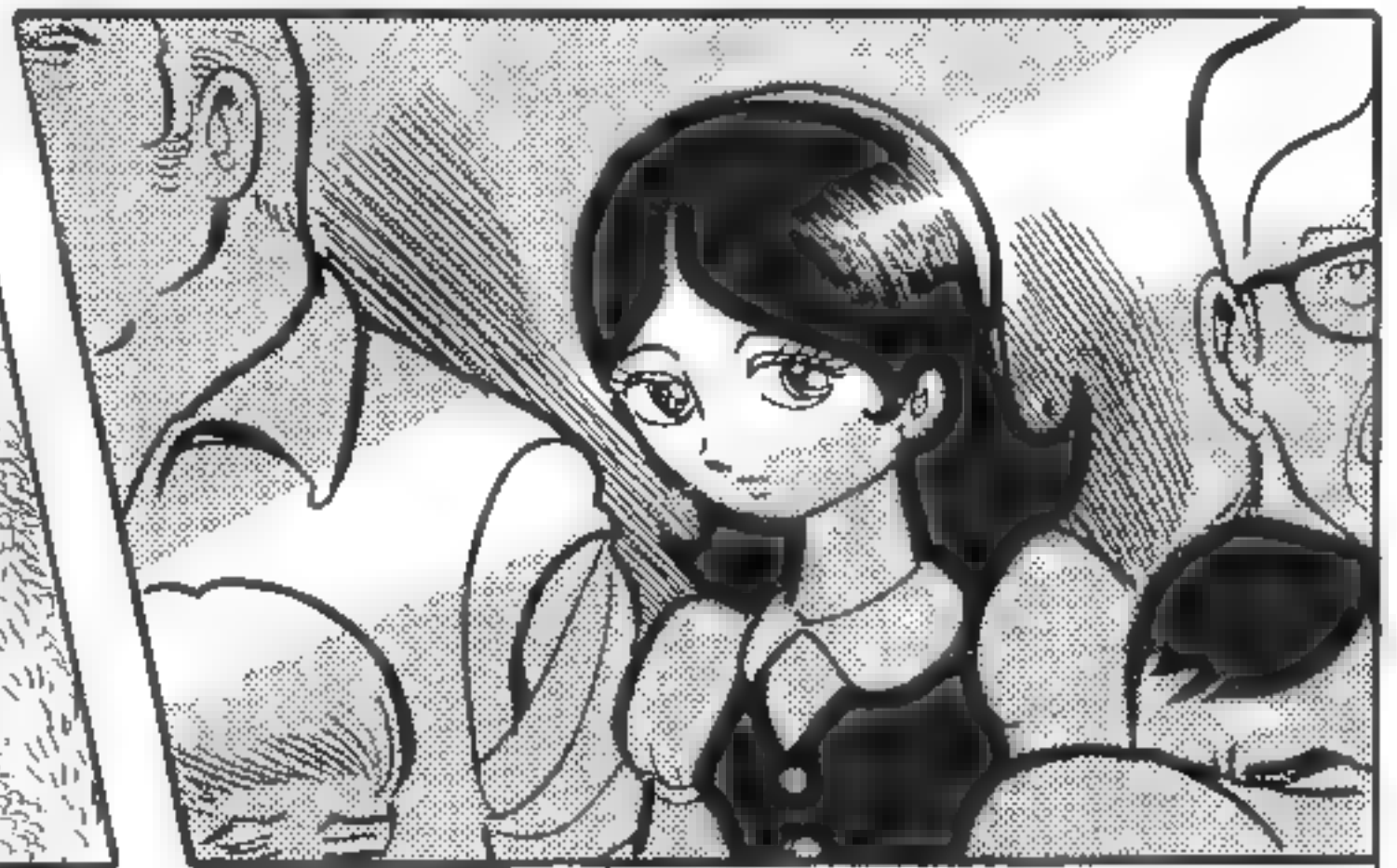
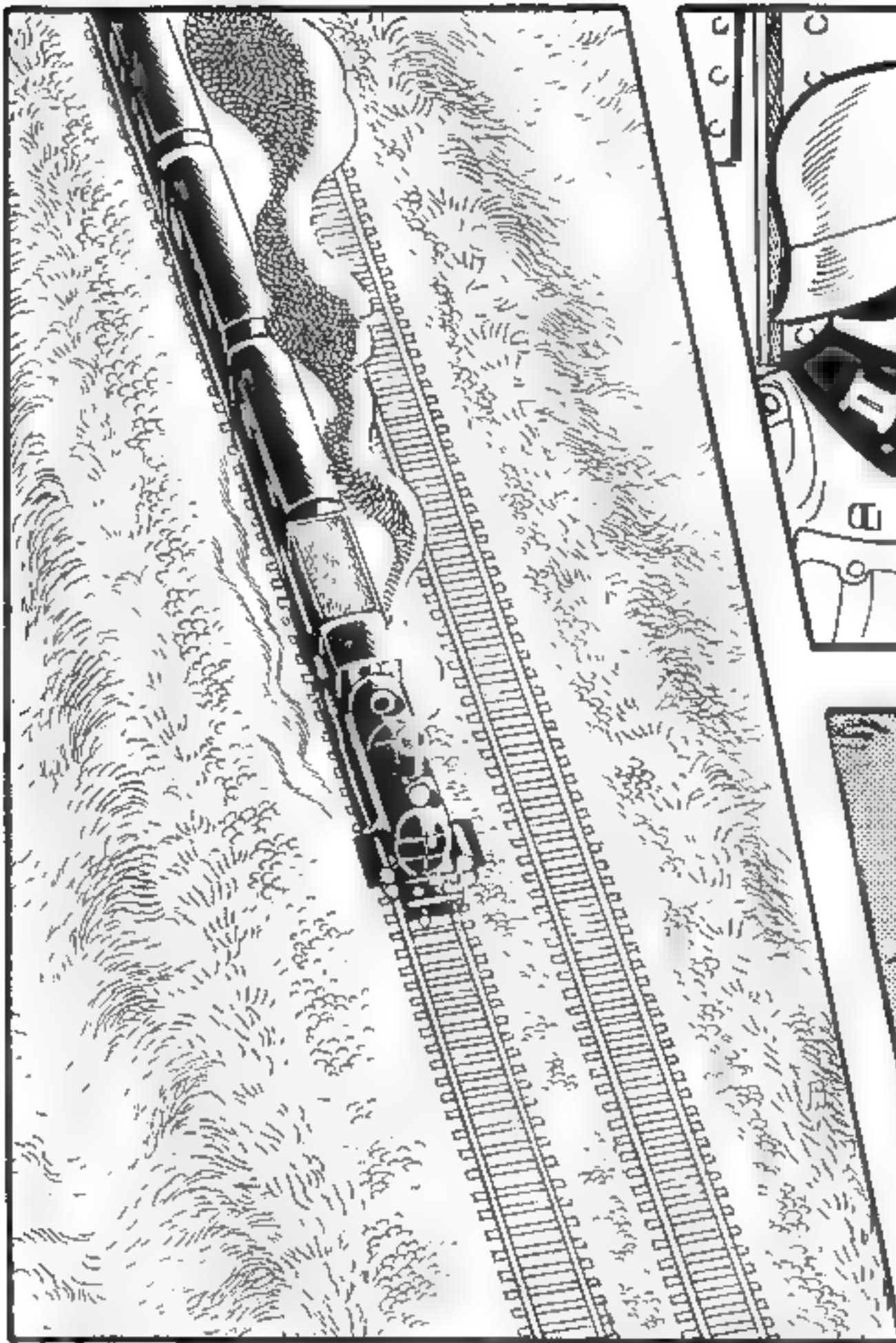
CHAPTER 1: DIE BLUMEN UND DIE LEICHE [FLOWERS AND THE CORPSE]

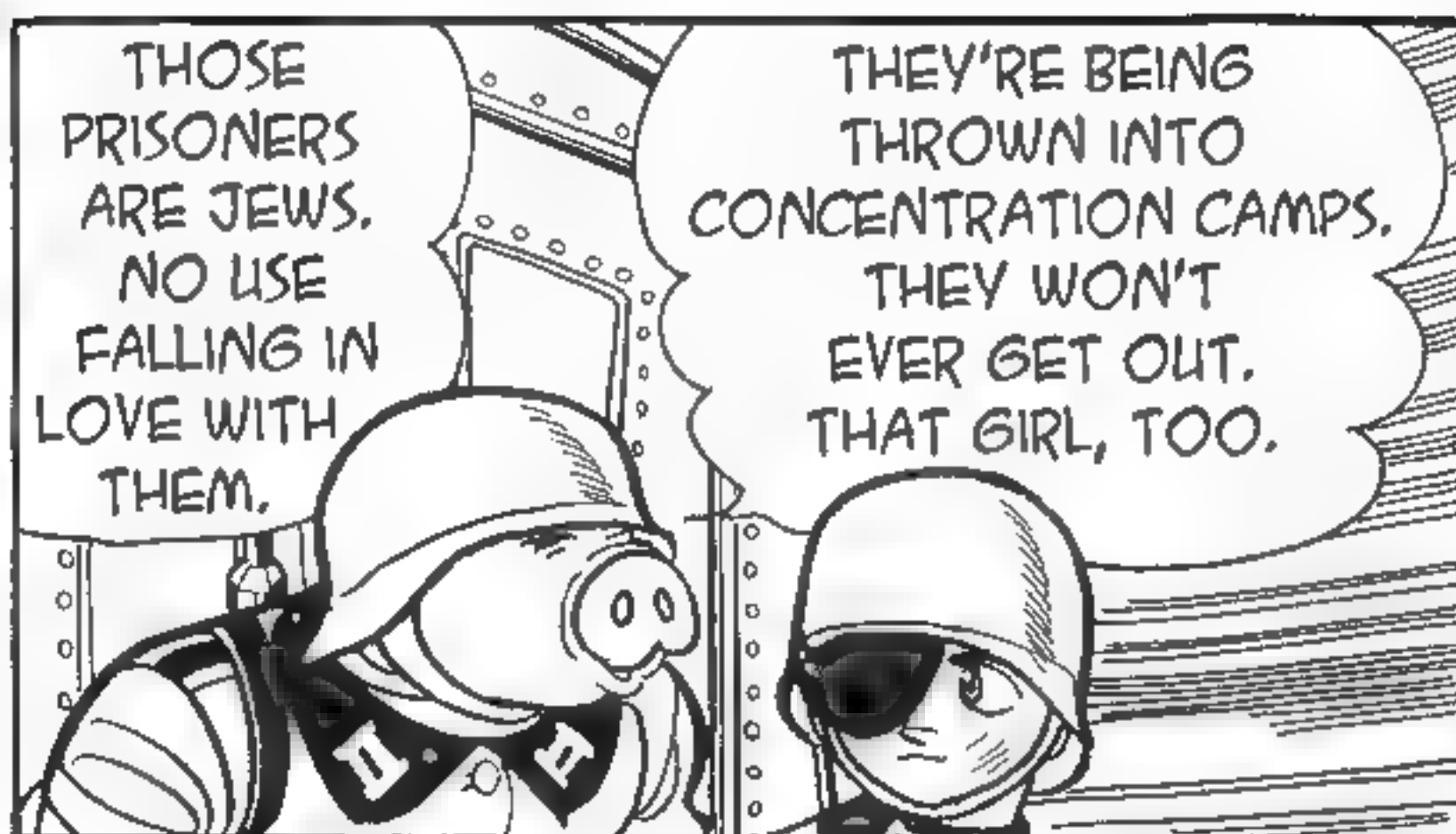


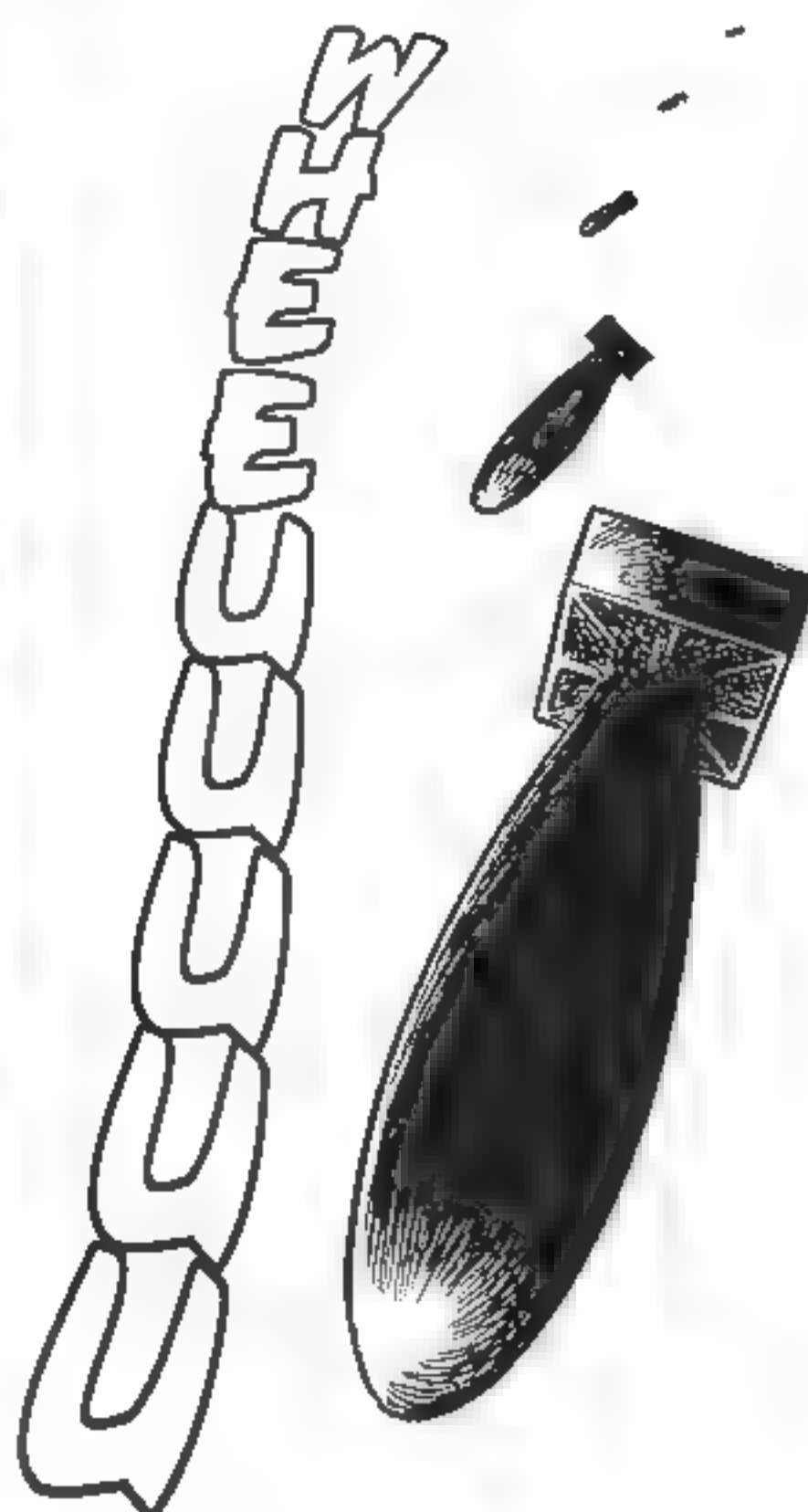
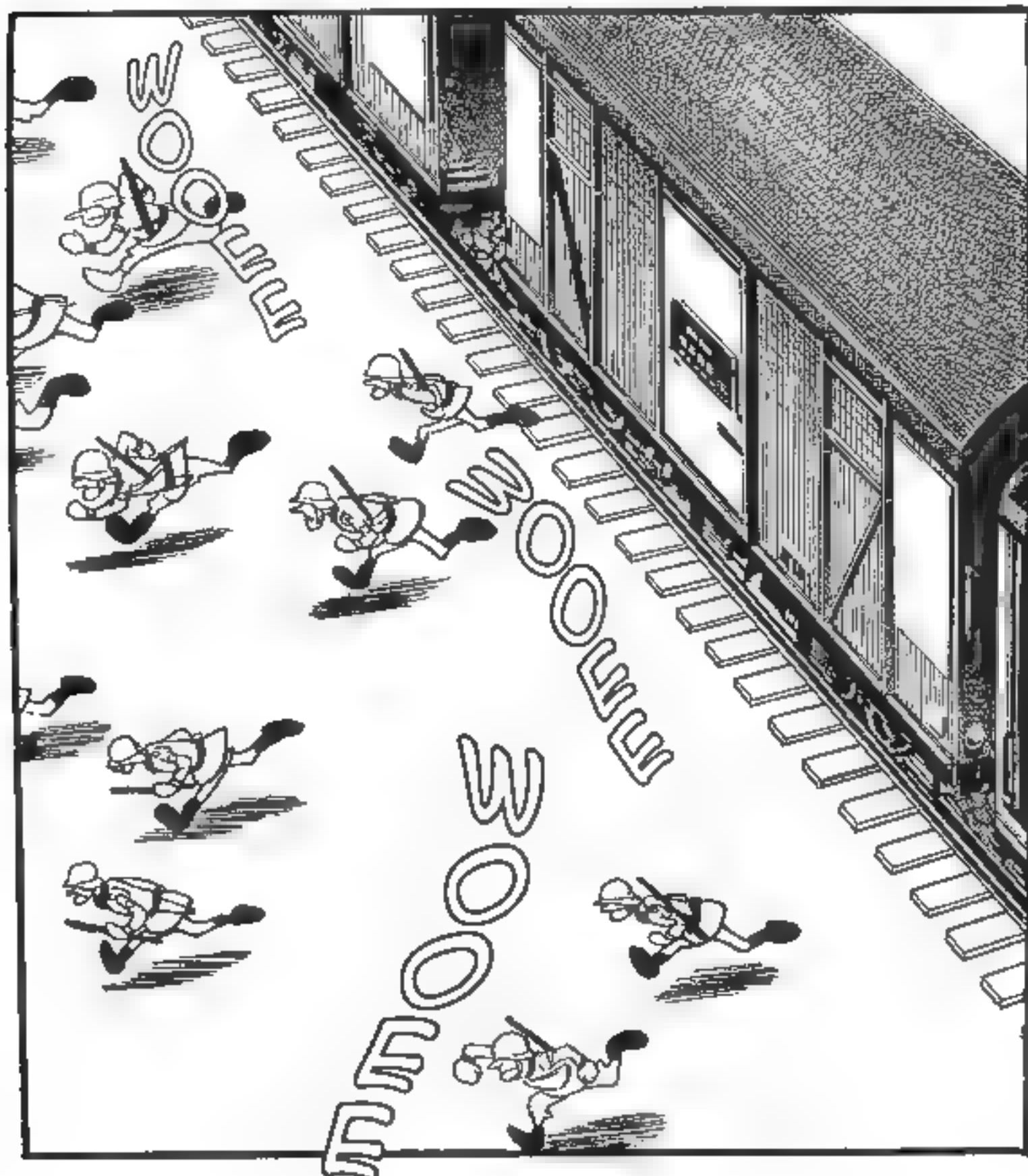
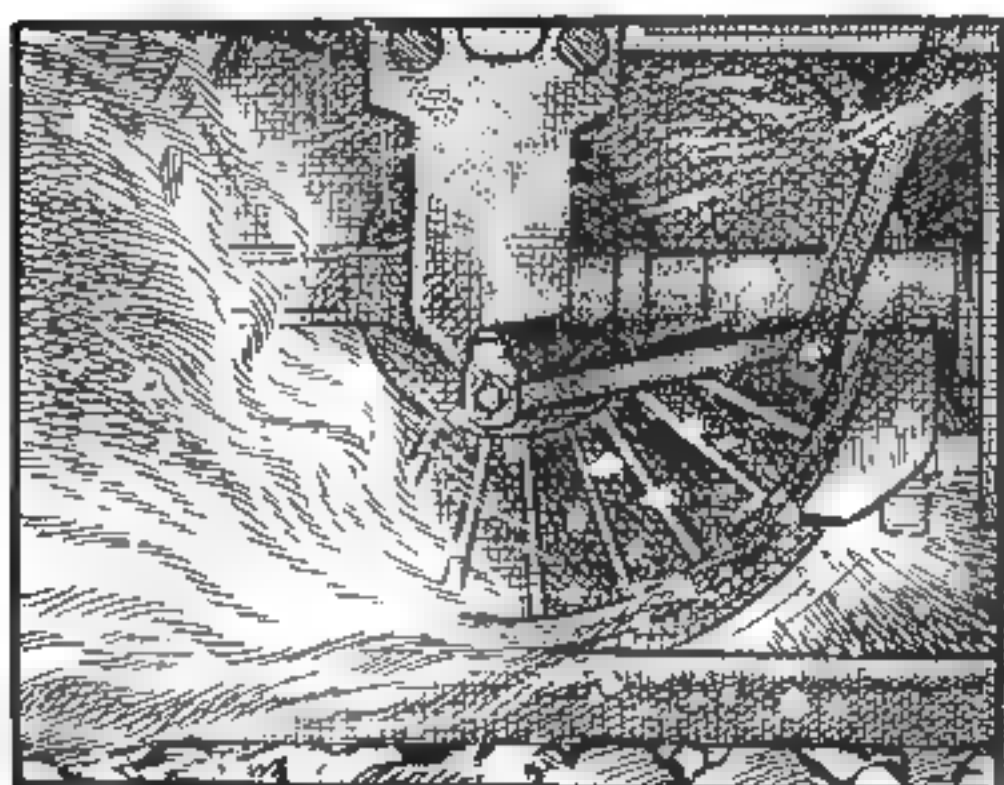
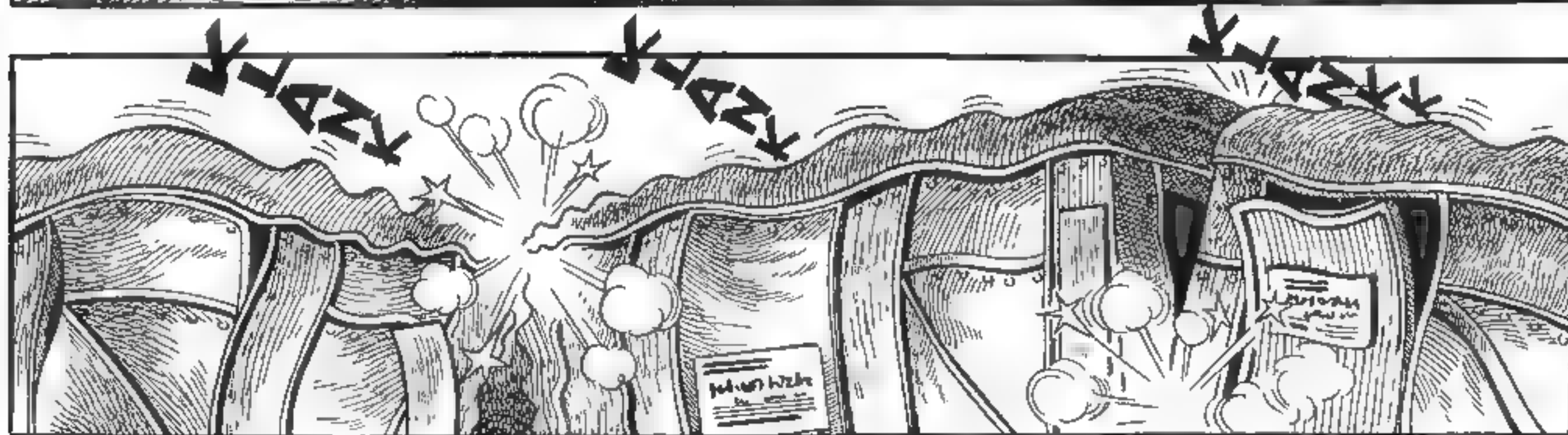
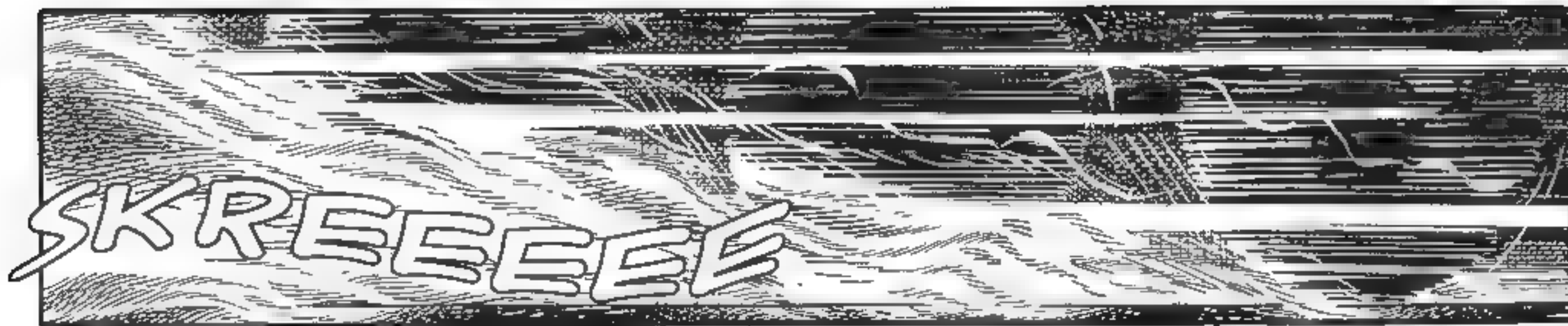


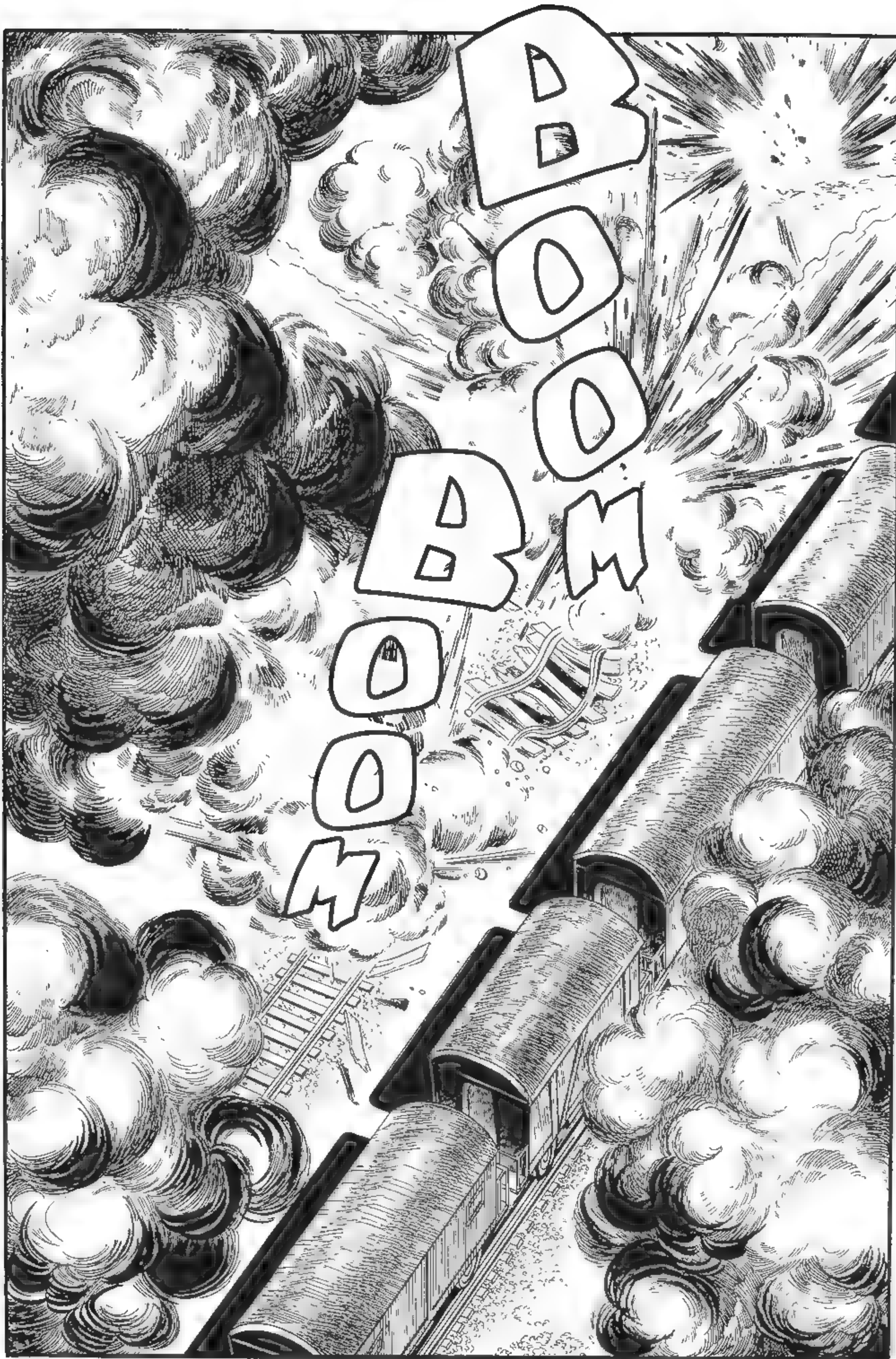


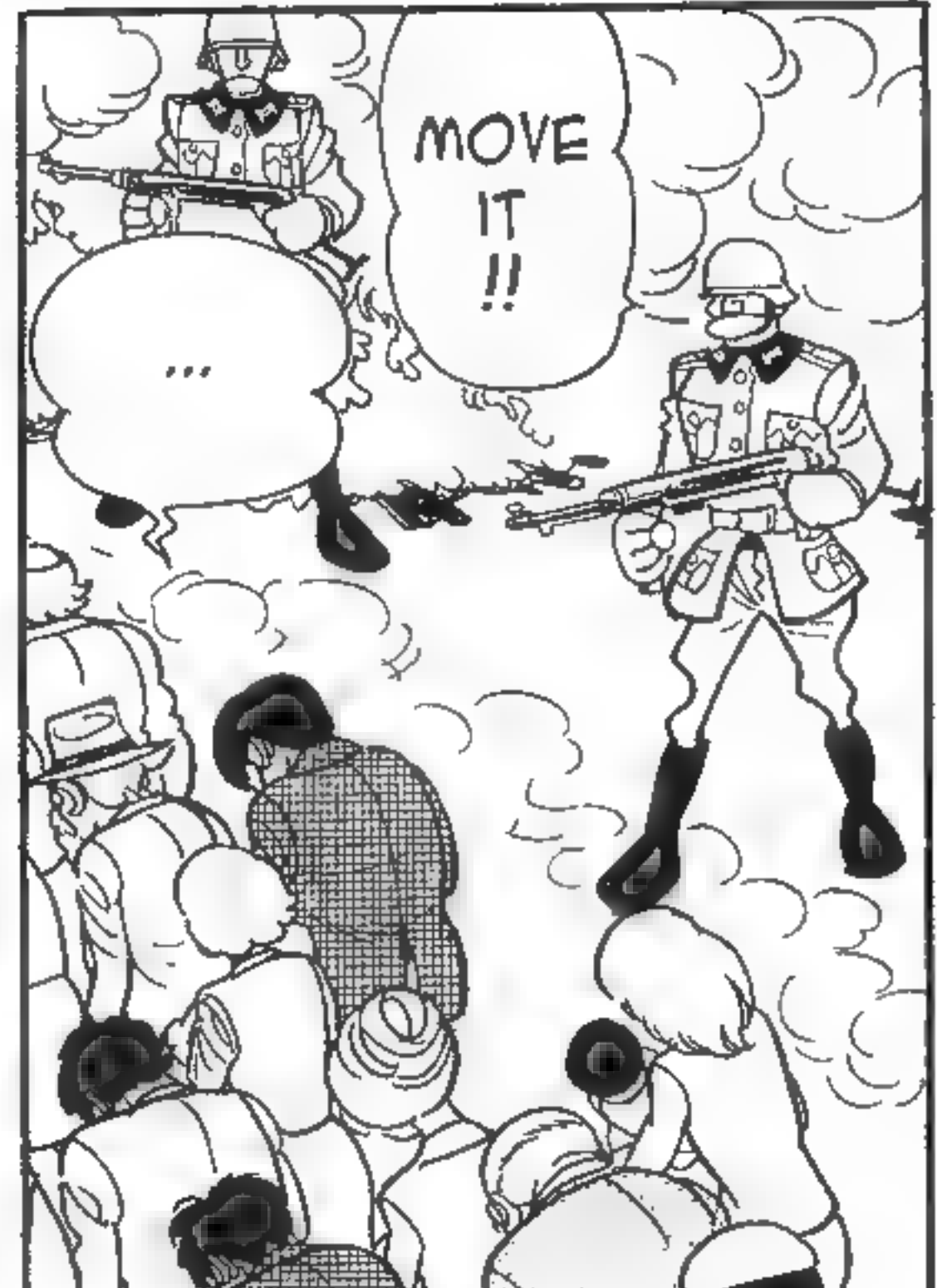
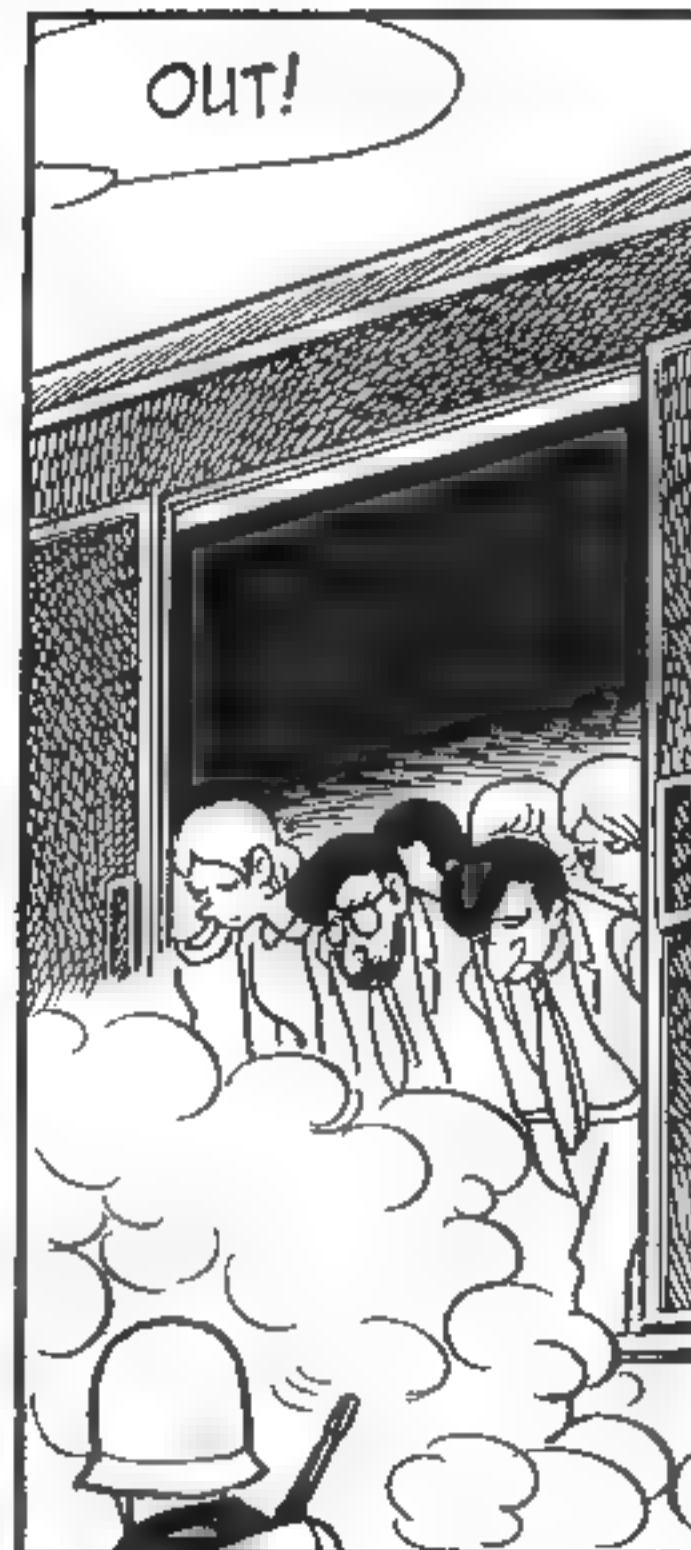
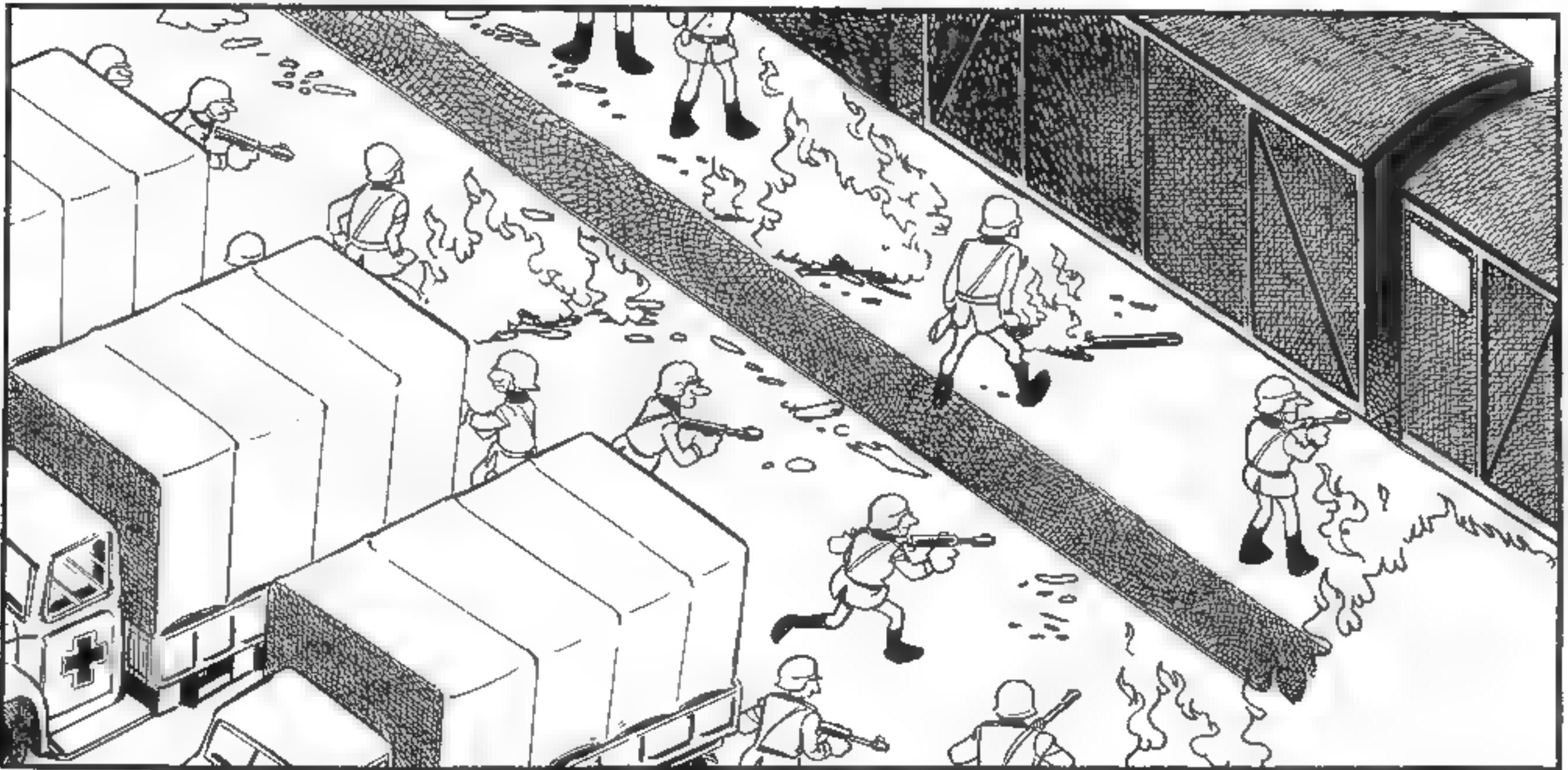
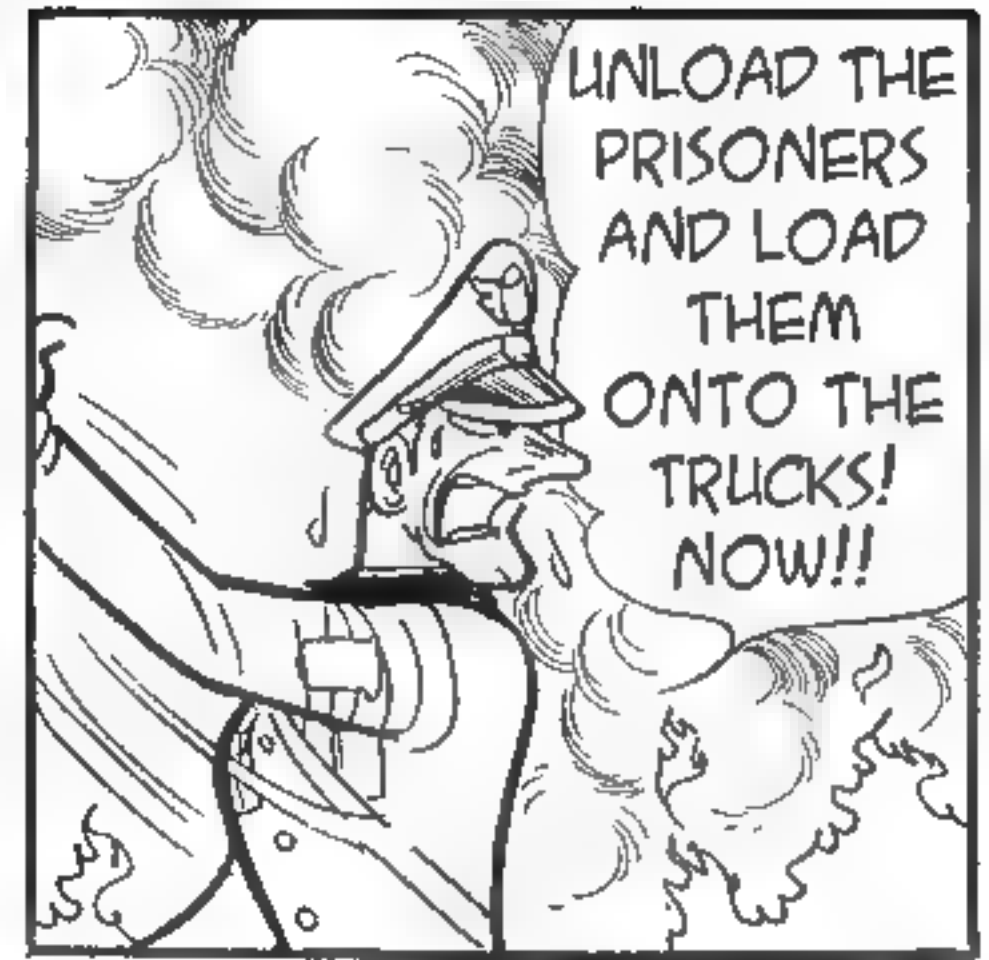
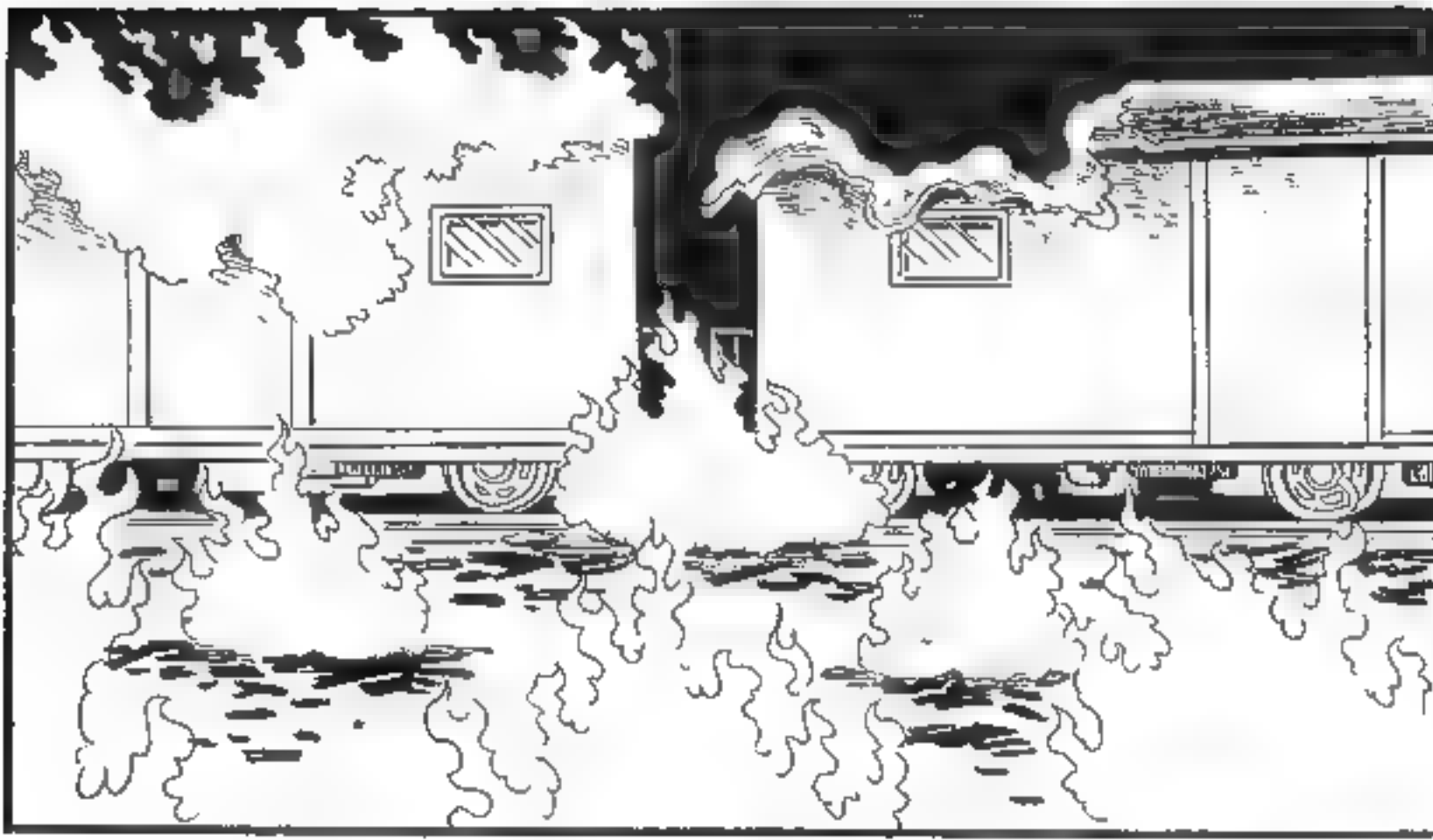


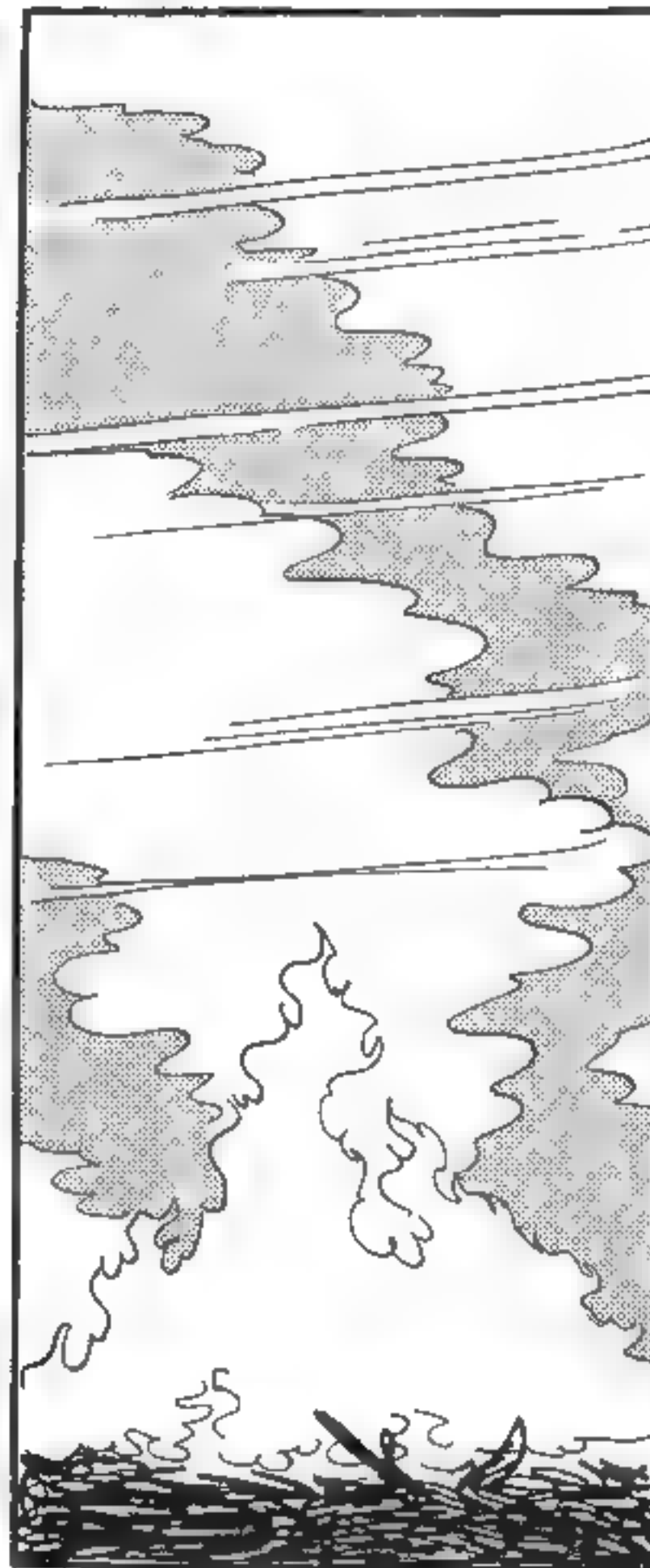
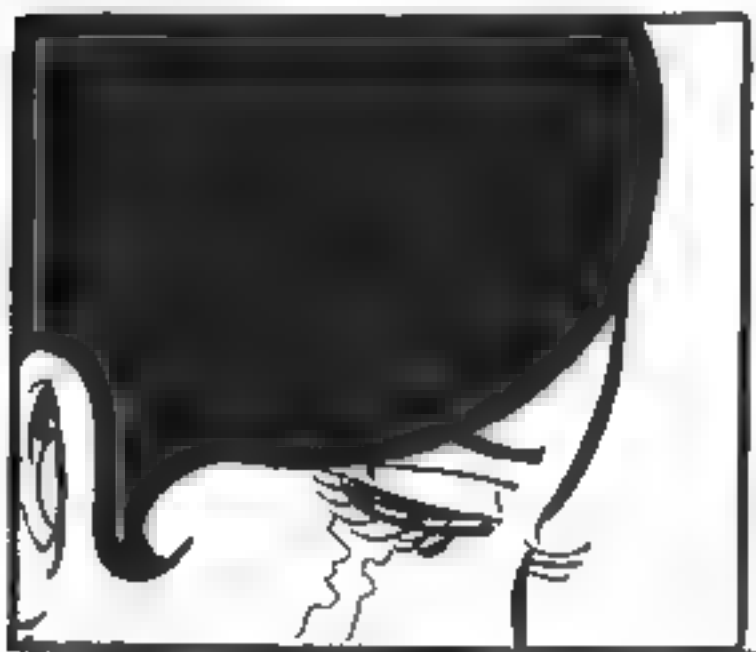
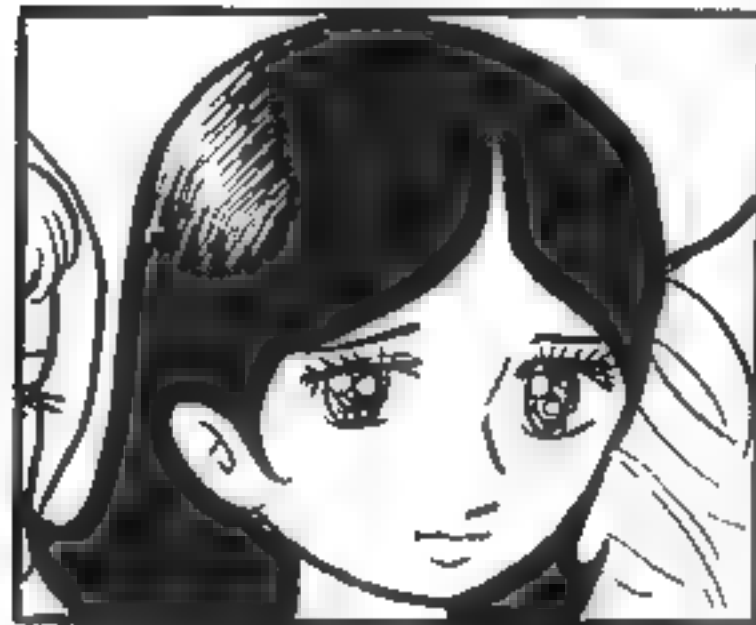
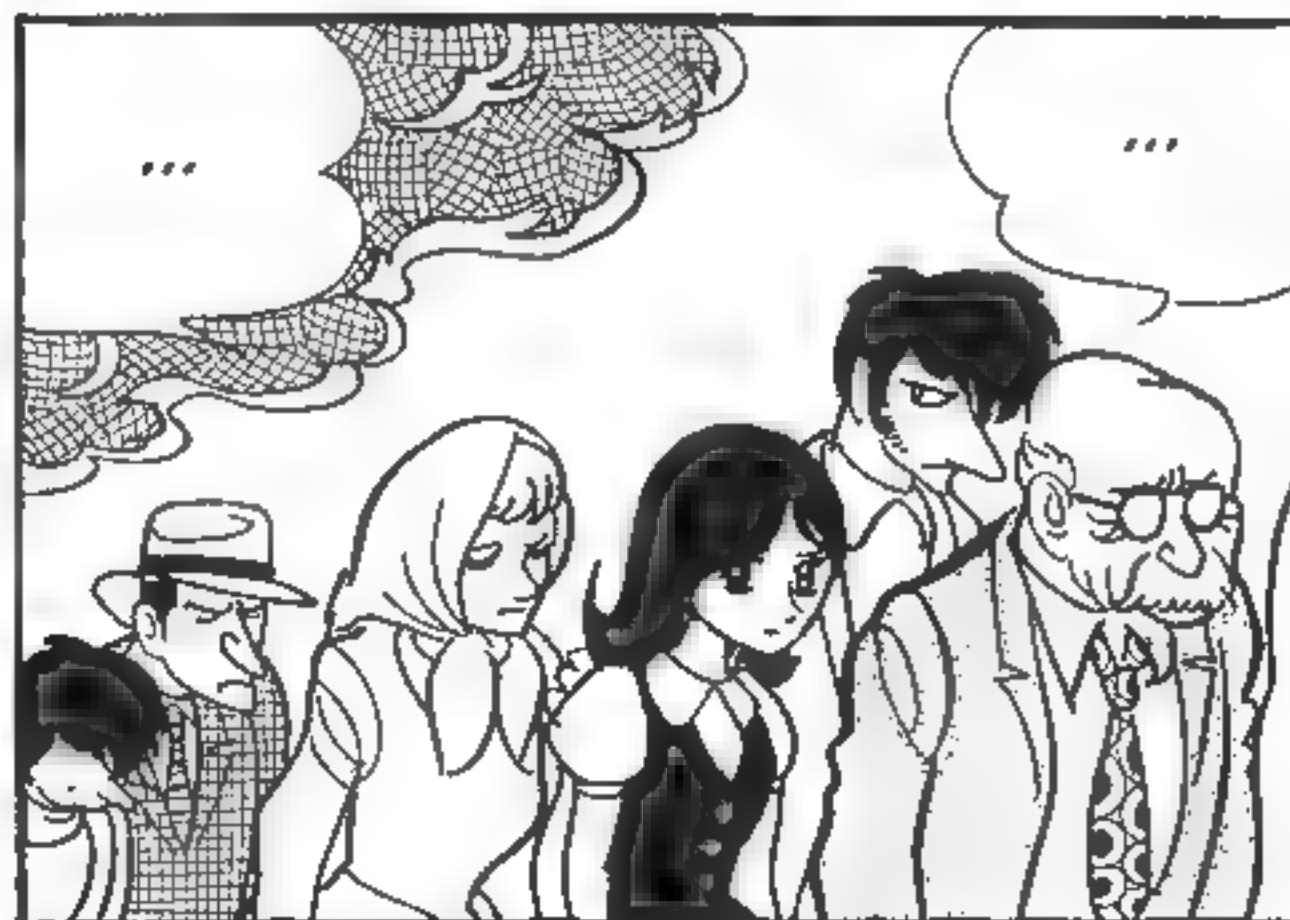
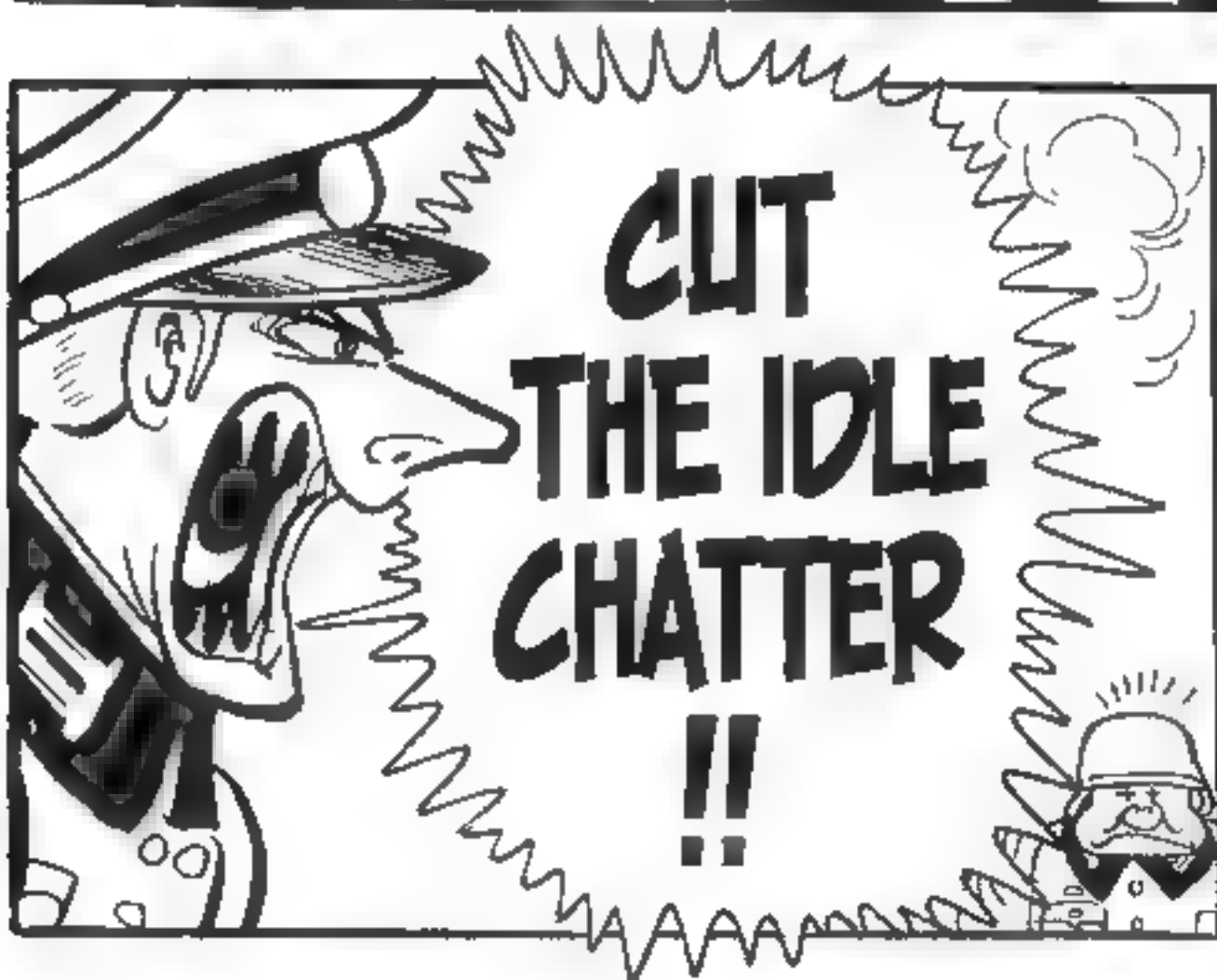


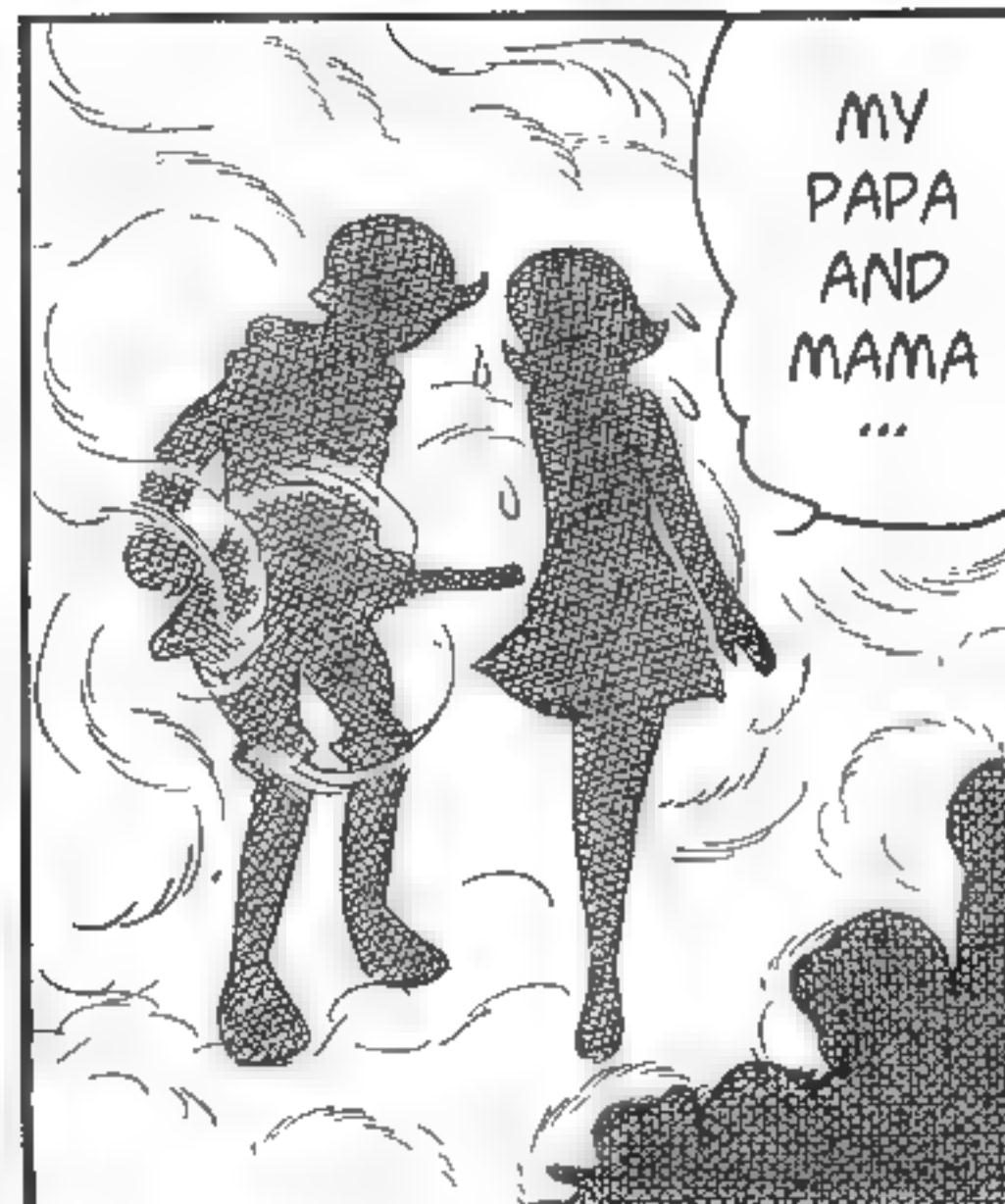
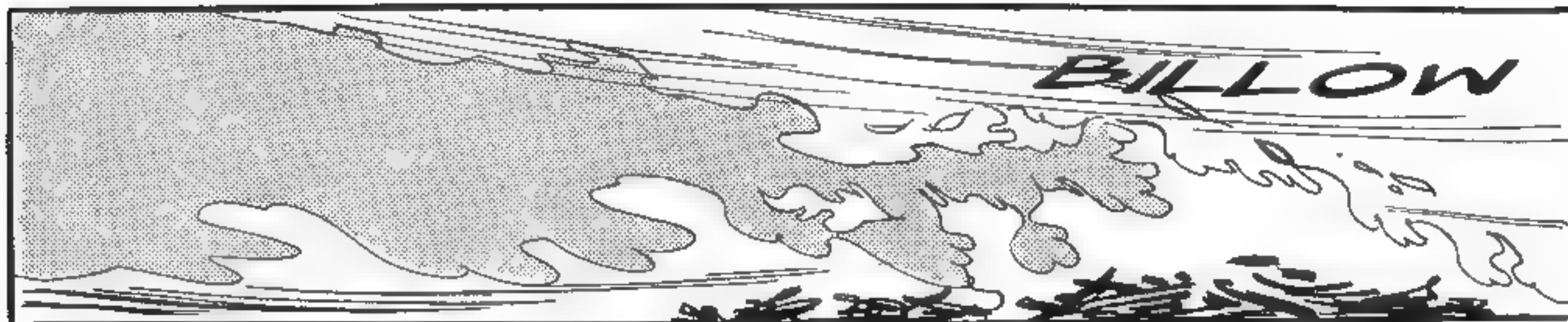


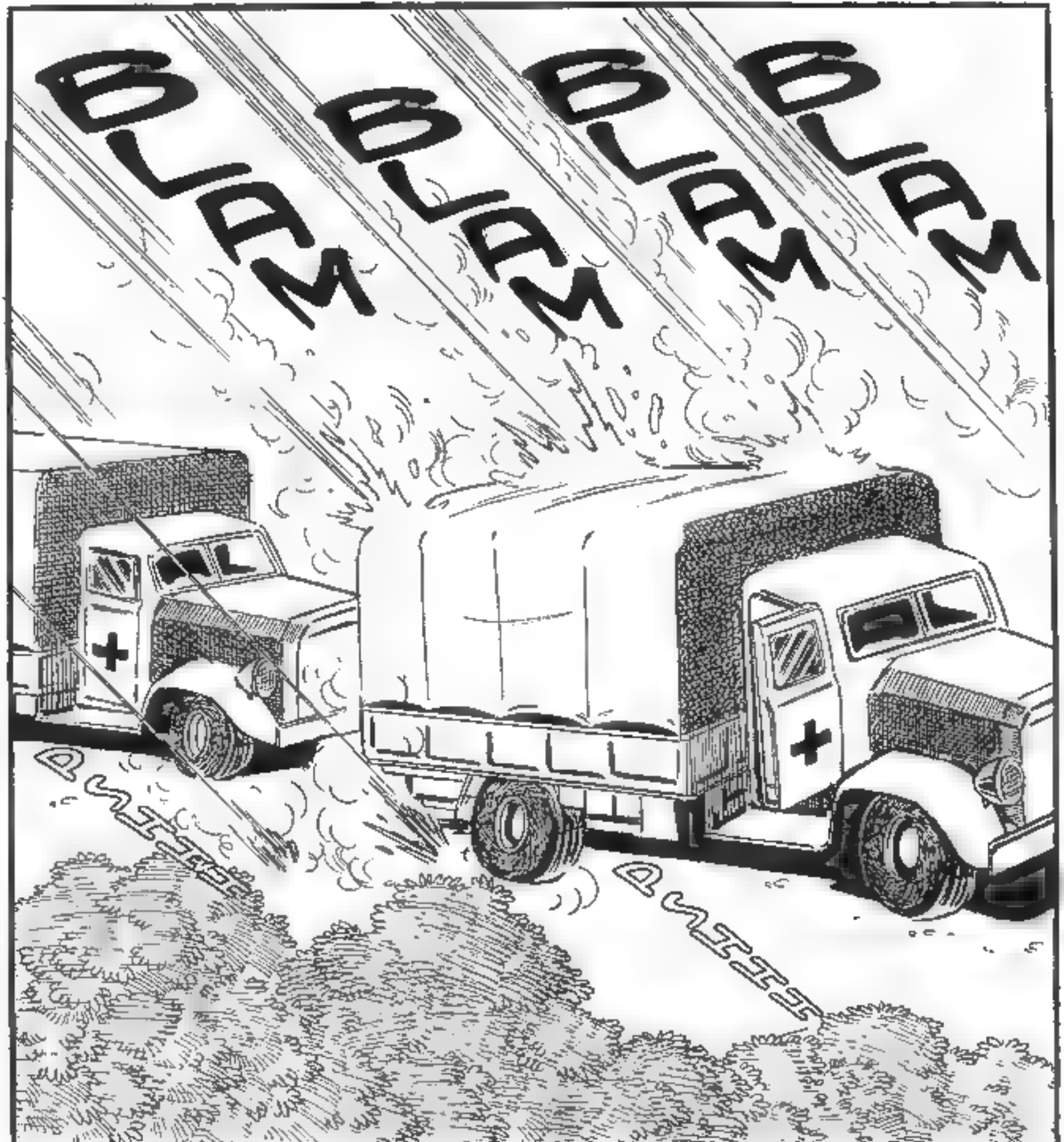
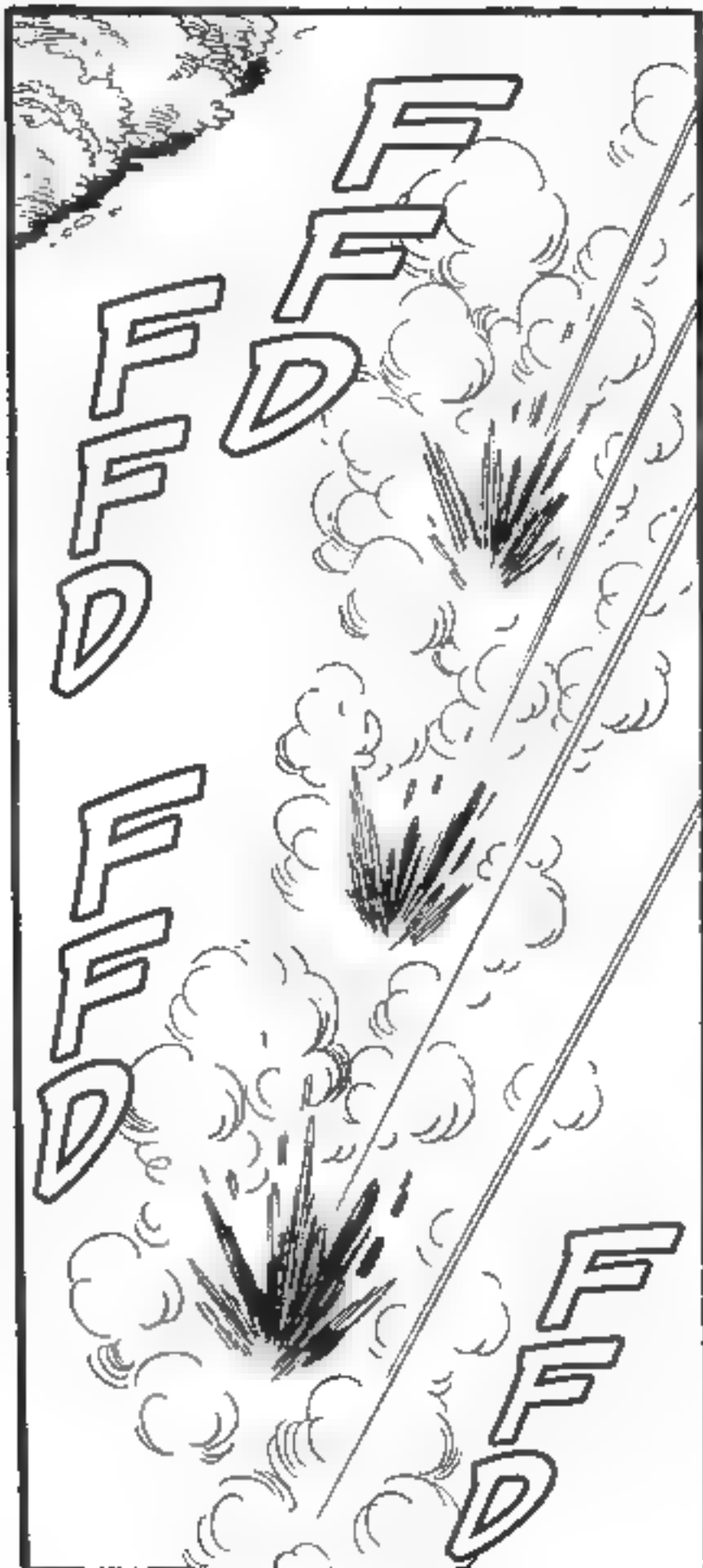
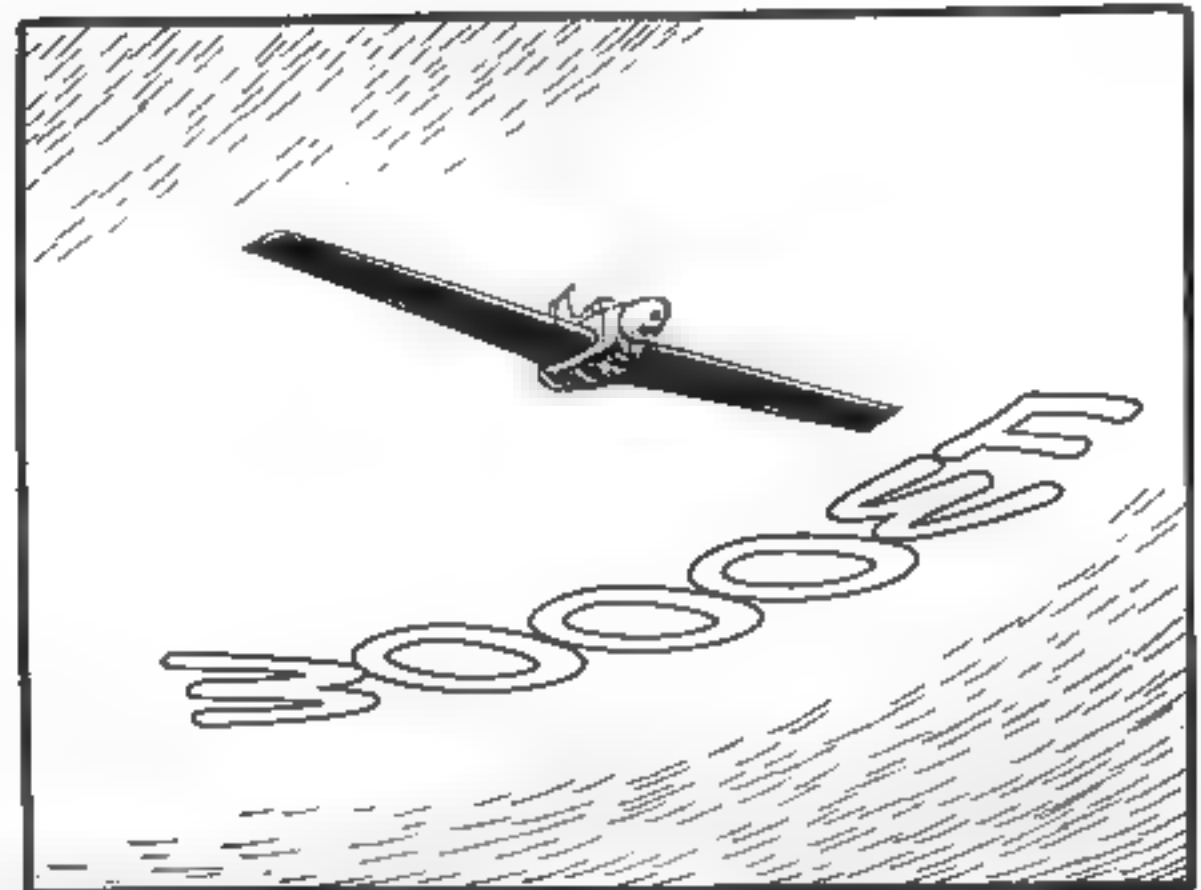
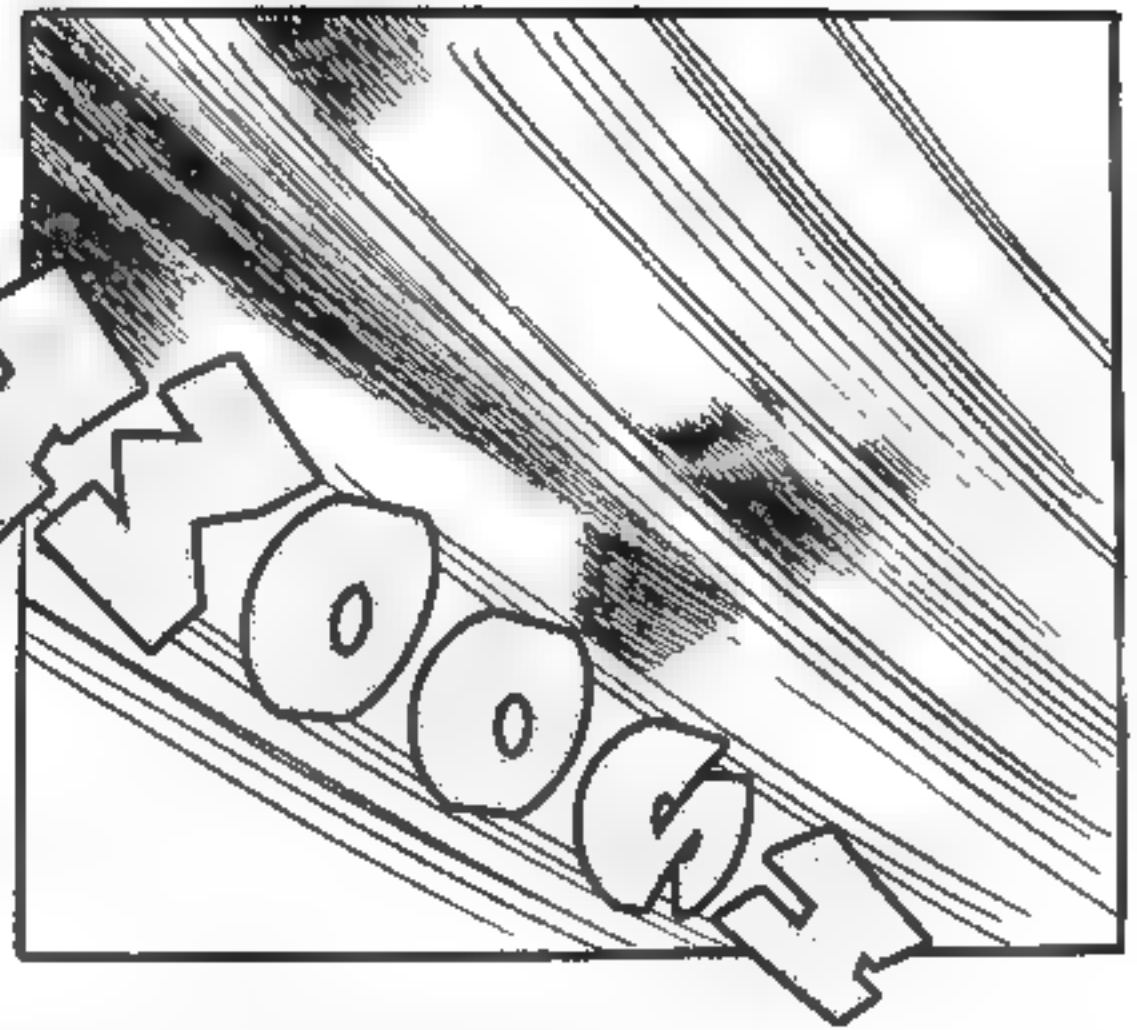
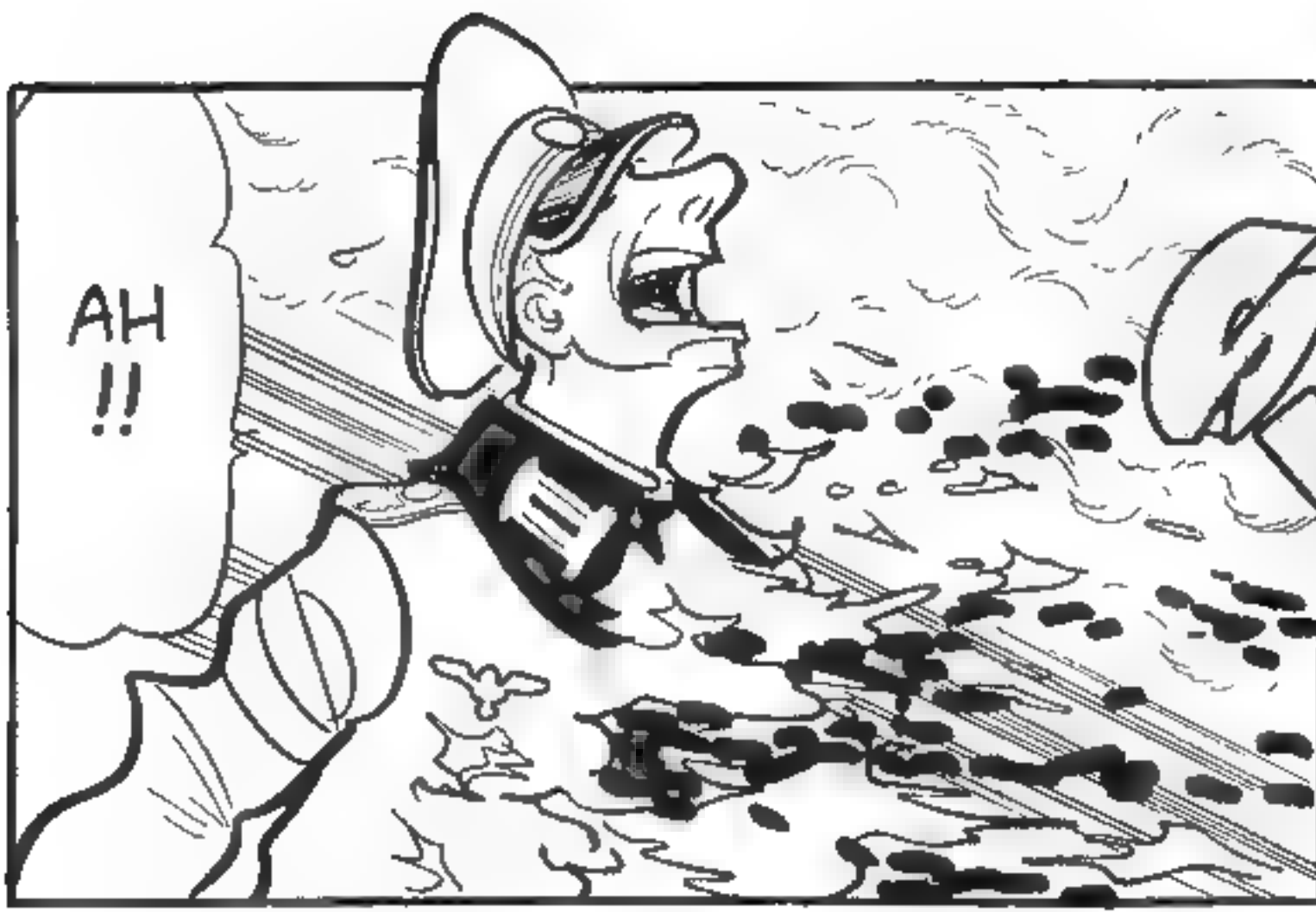


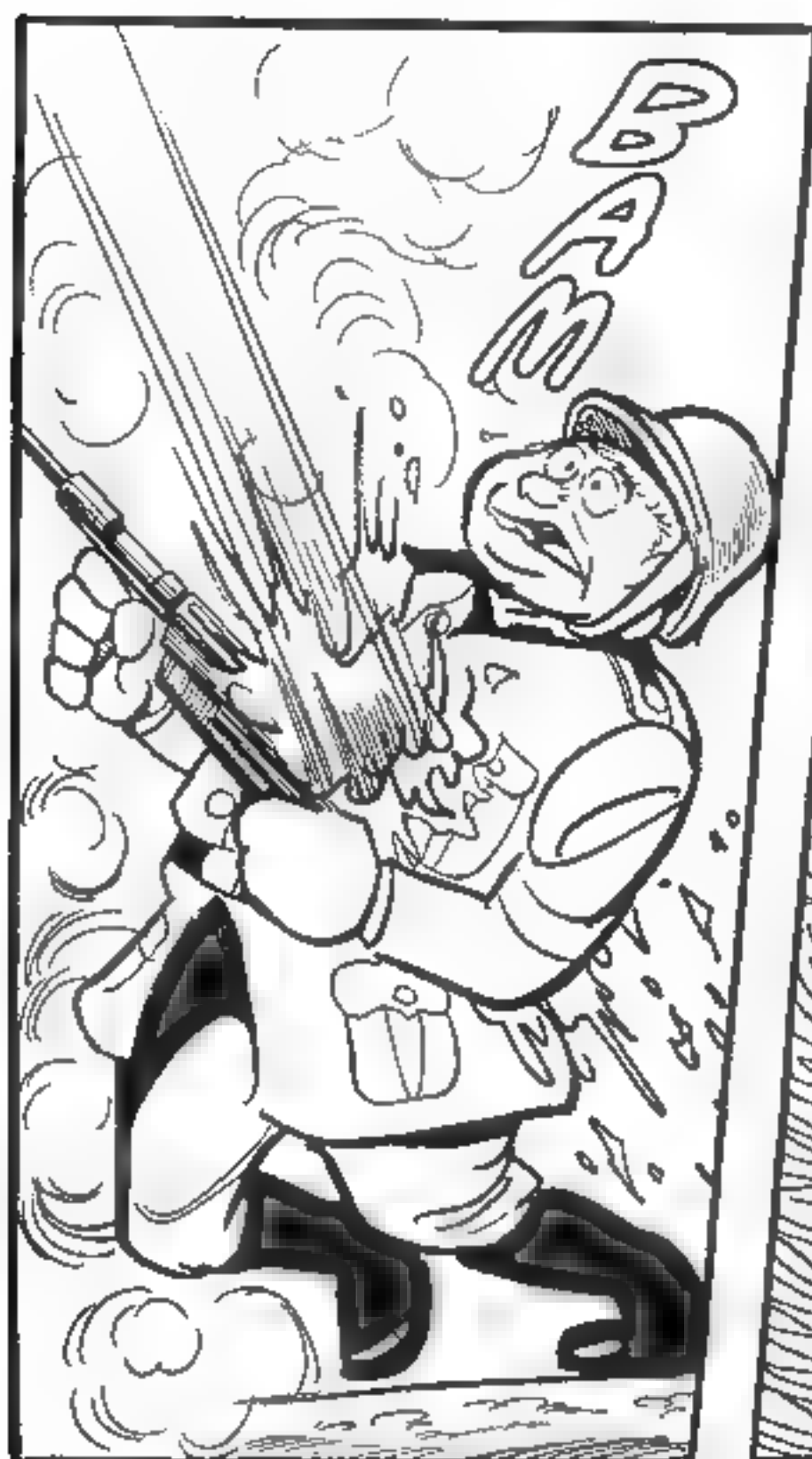
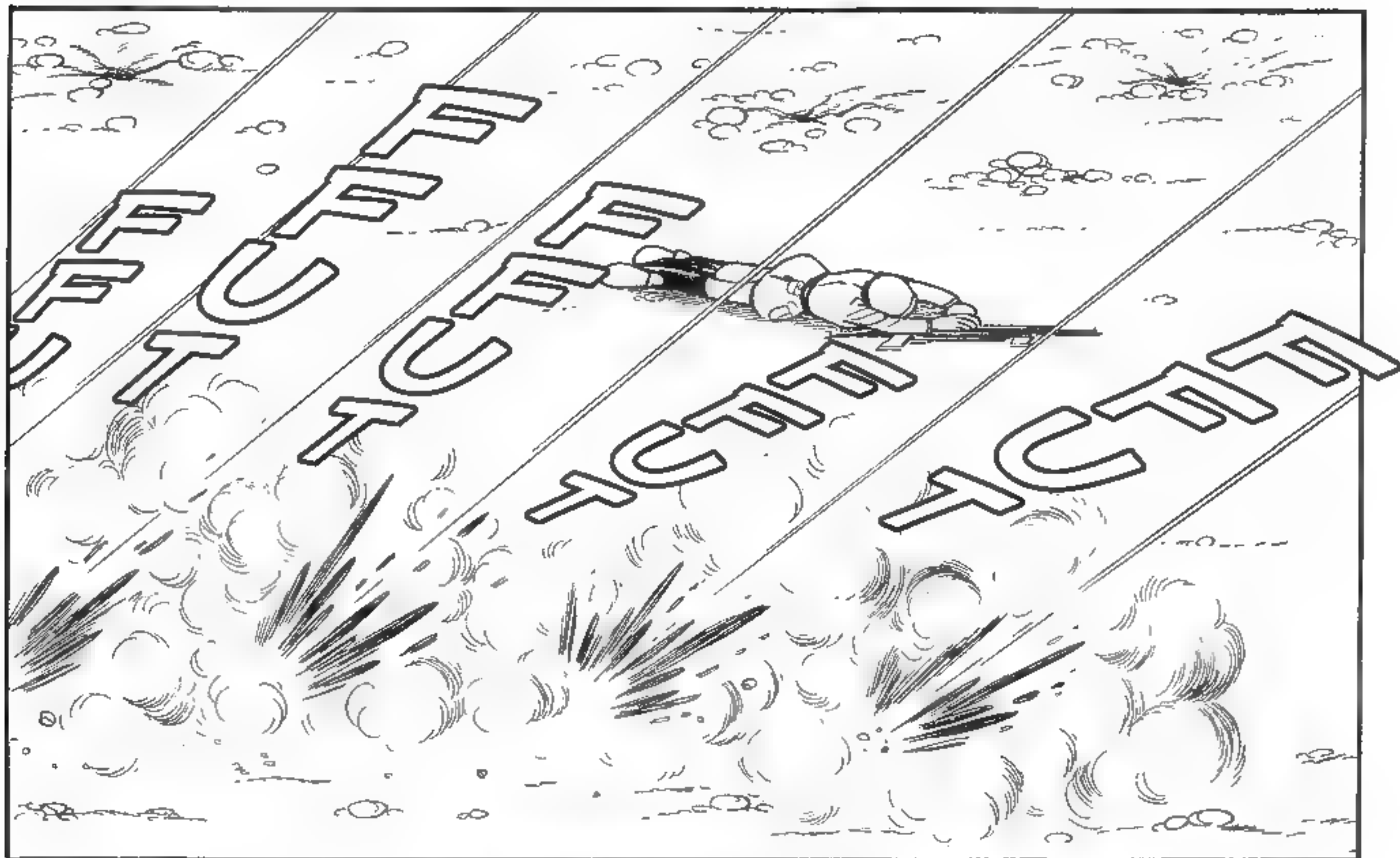


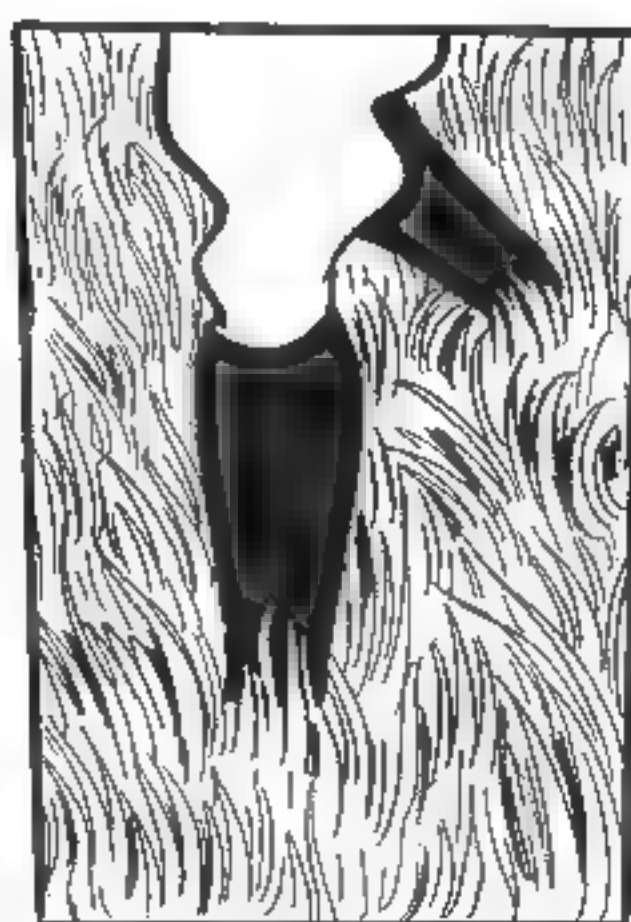




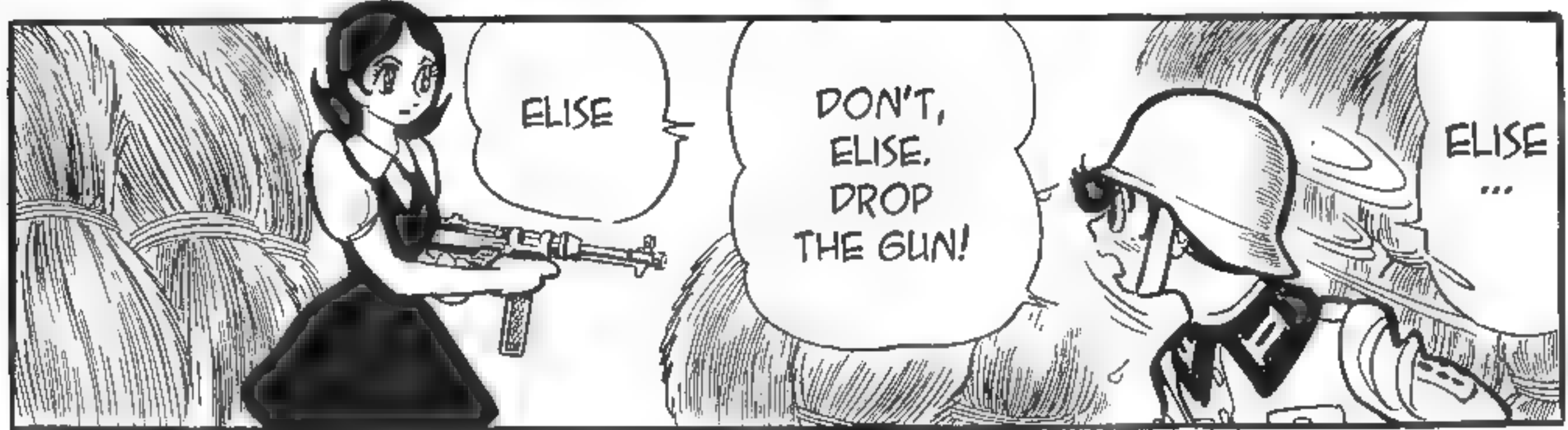
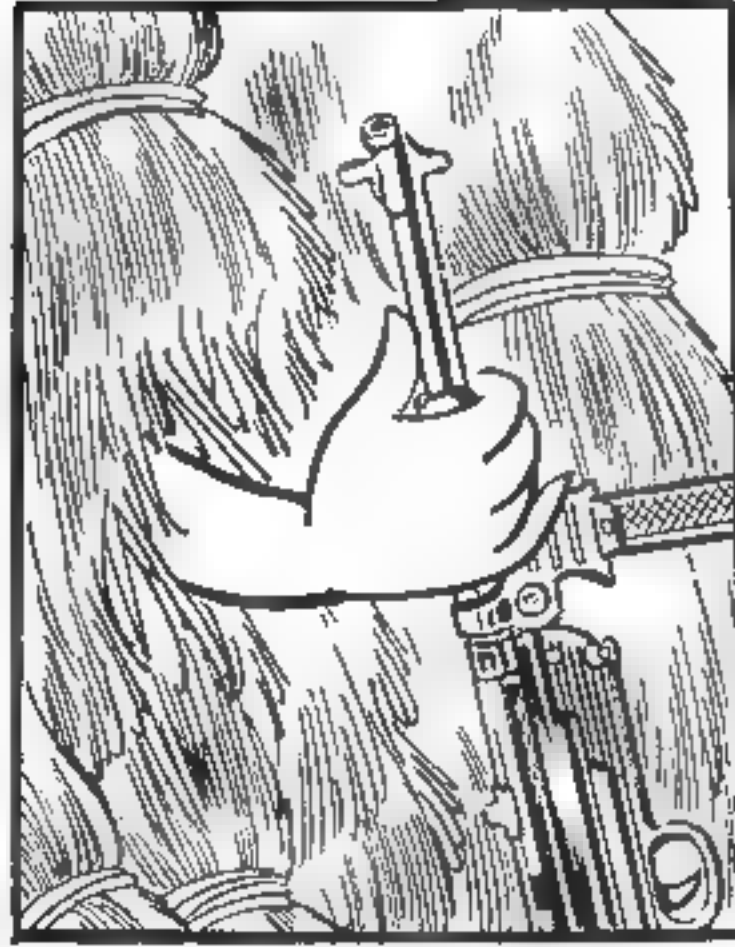
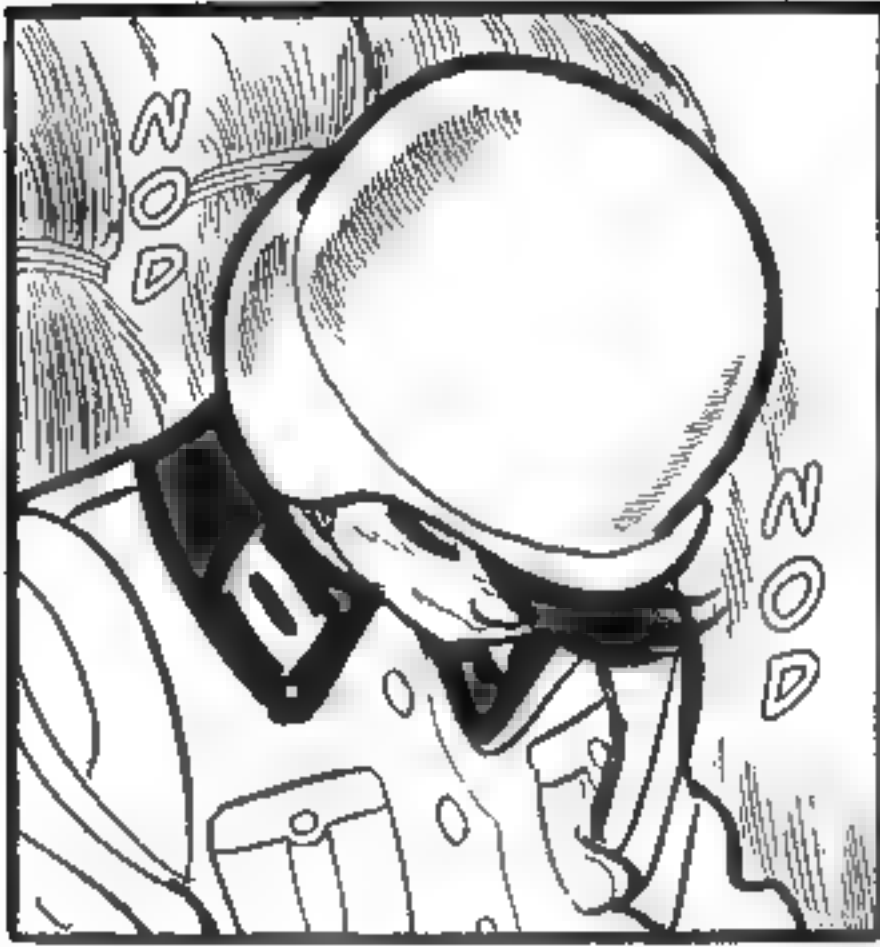


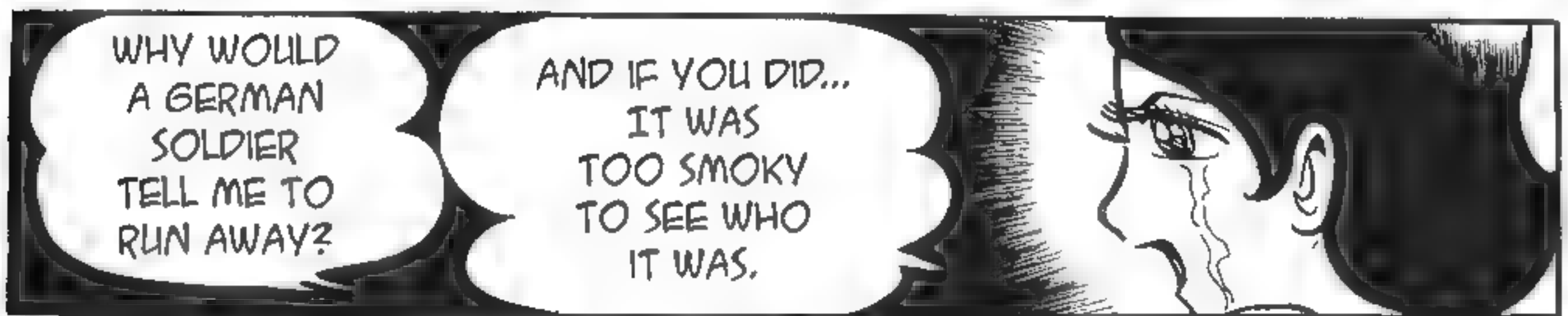
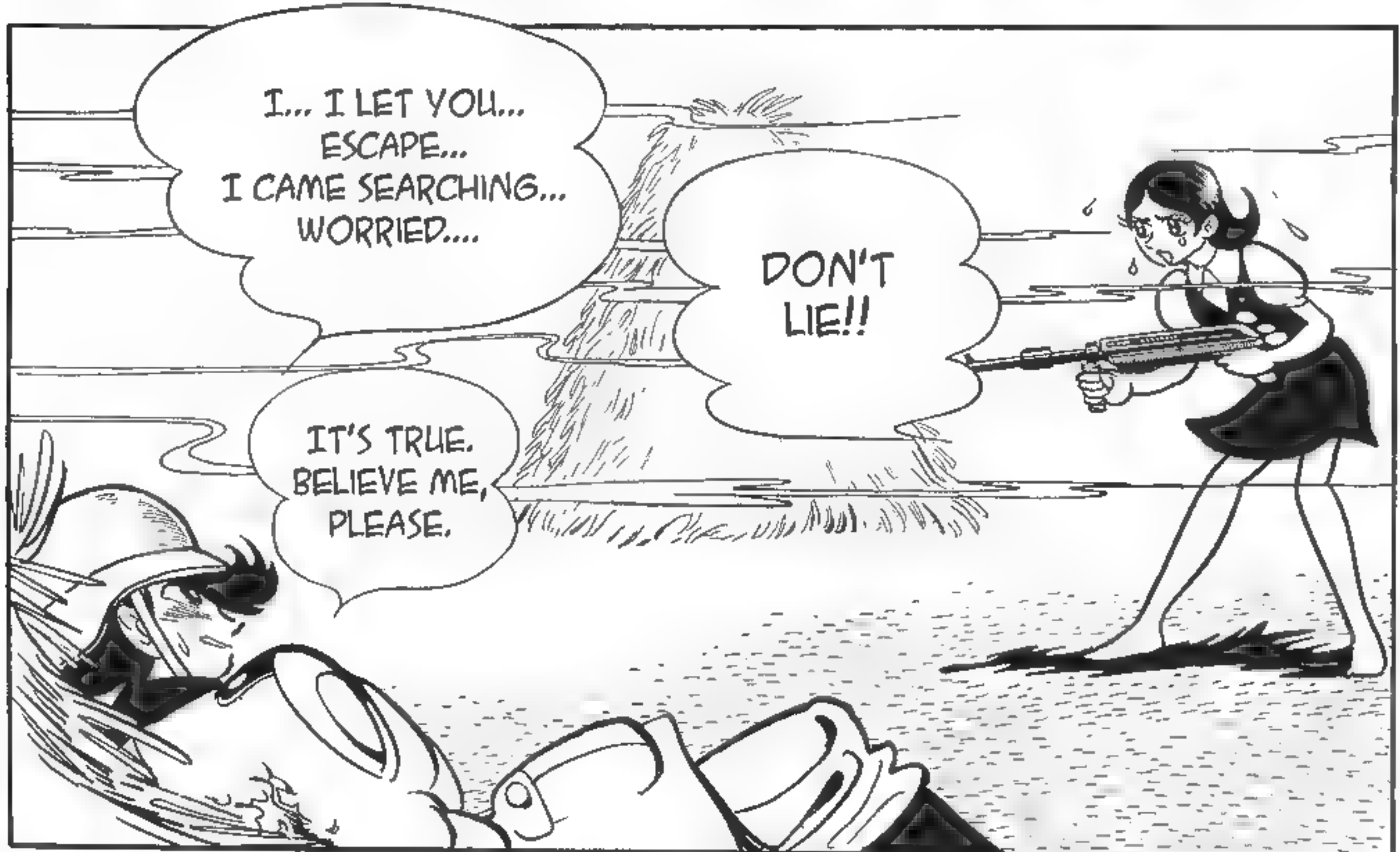
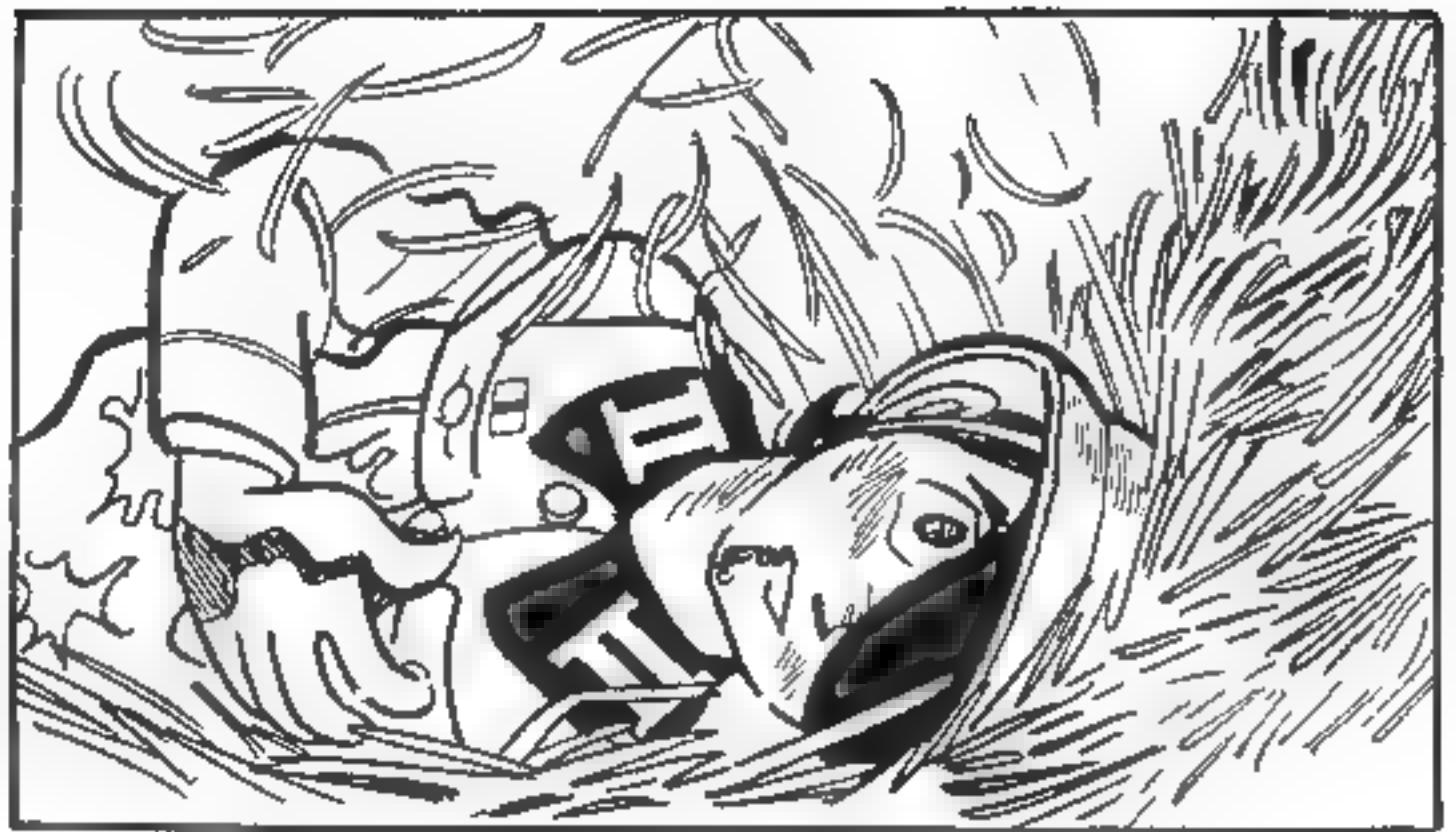
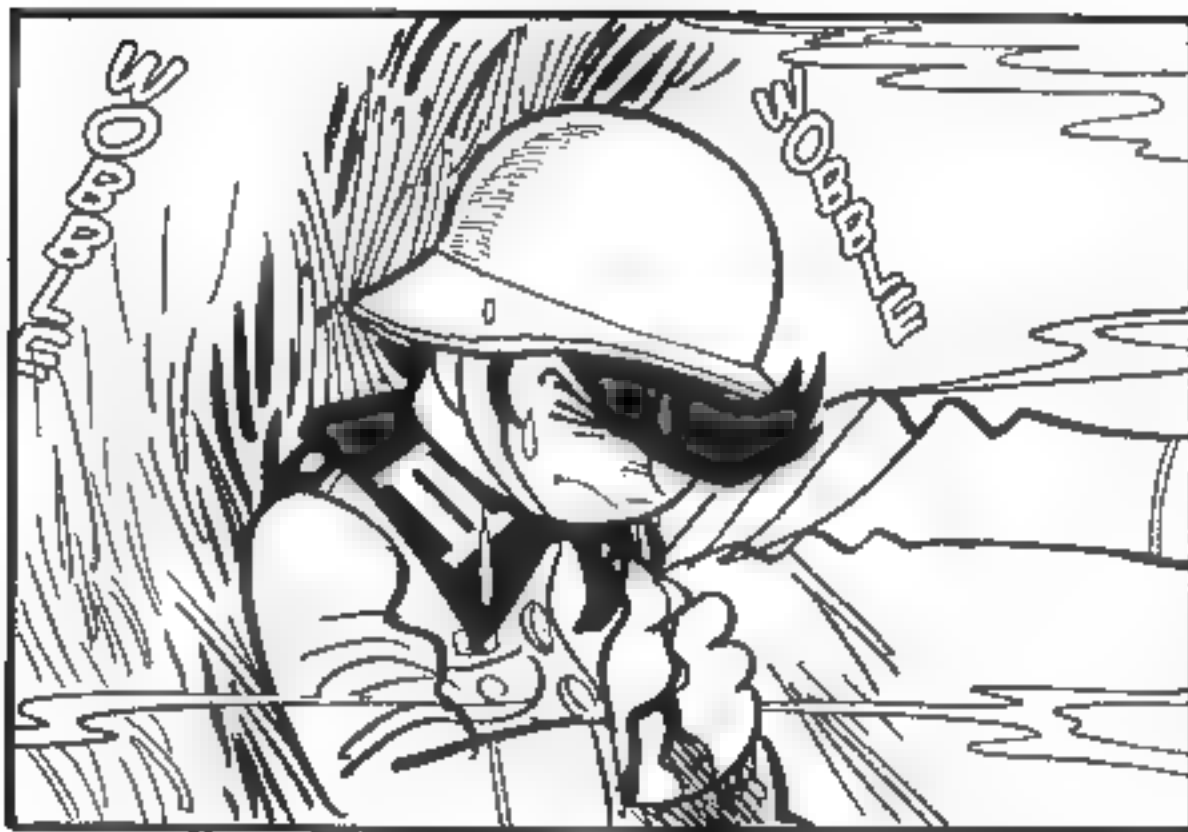


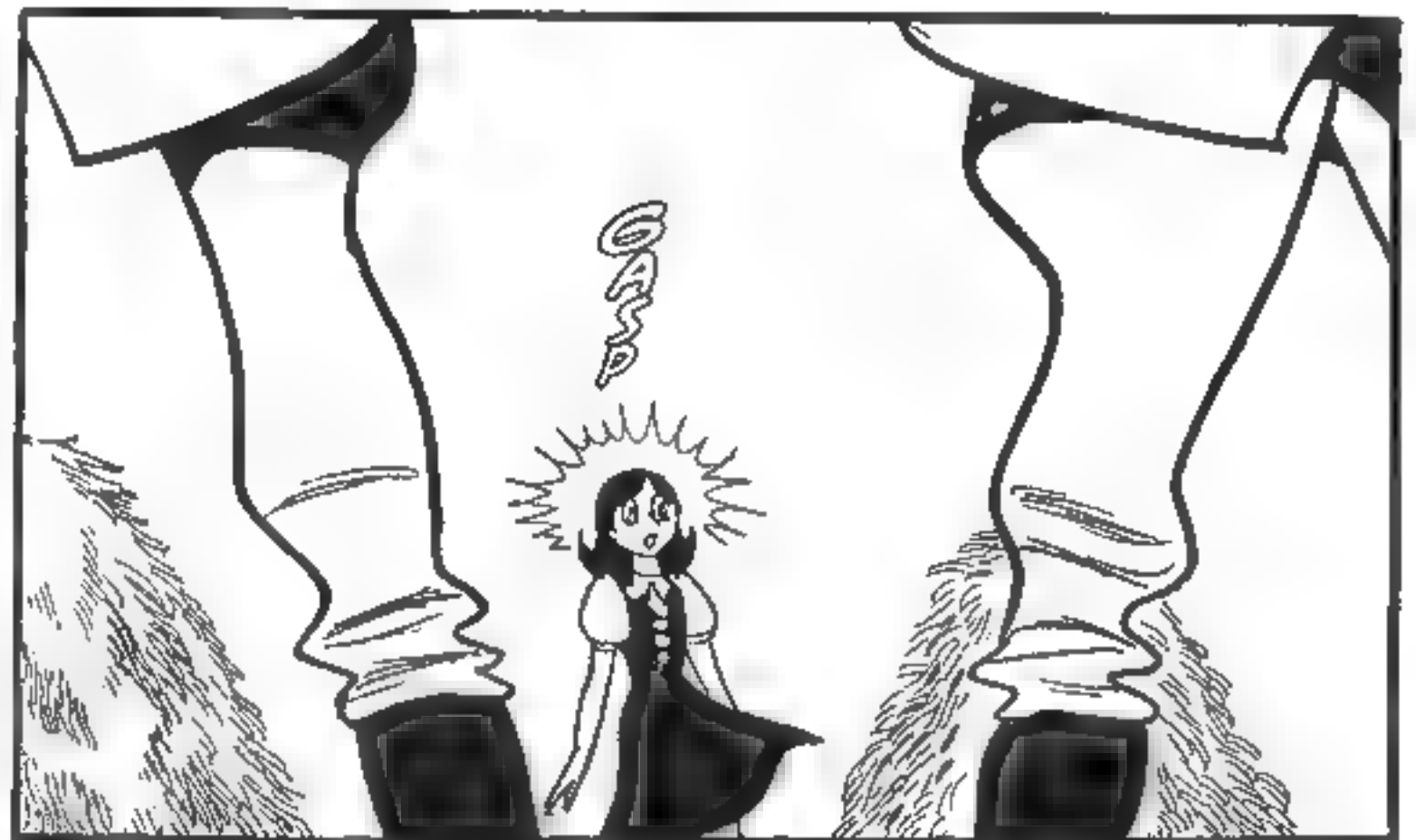
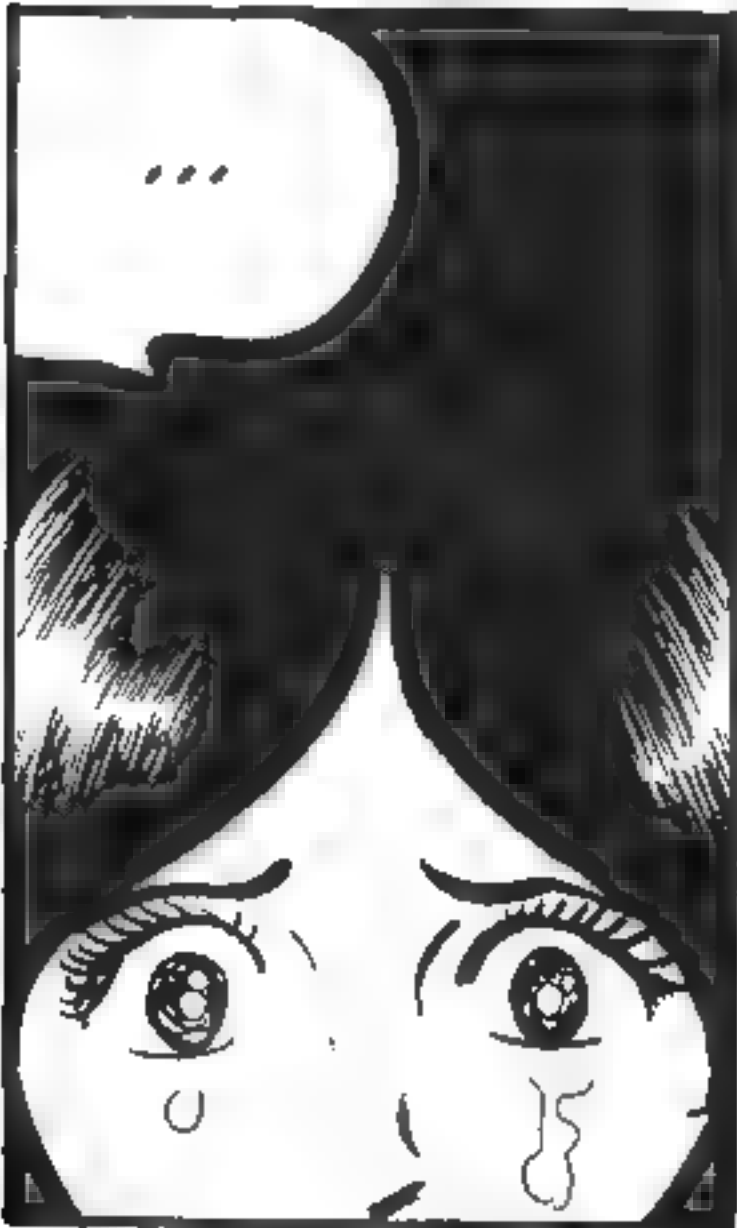
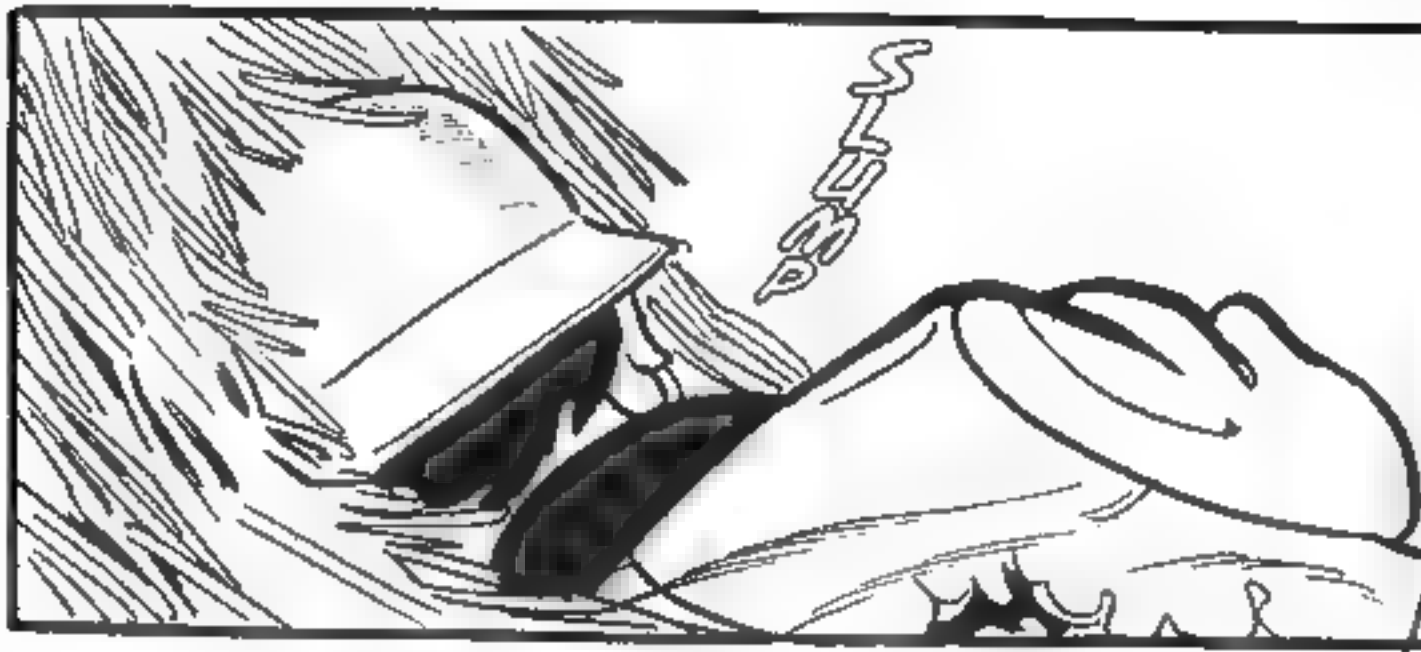


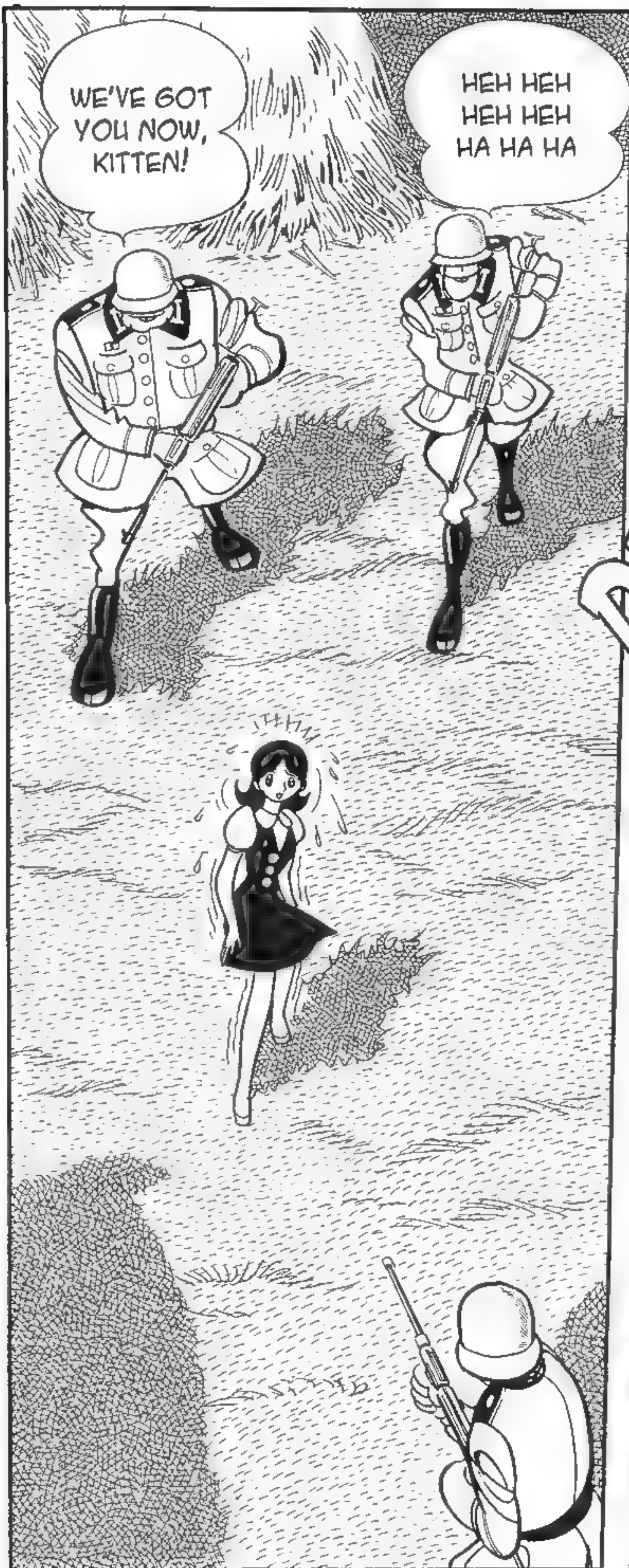


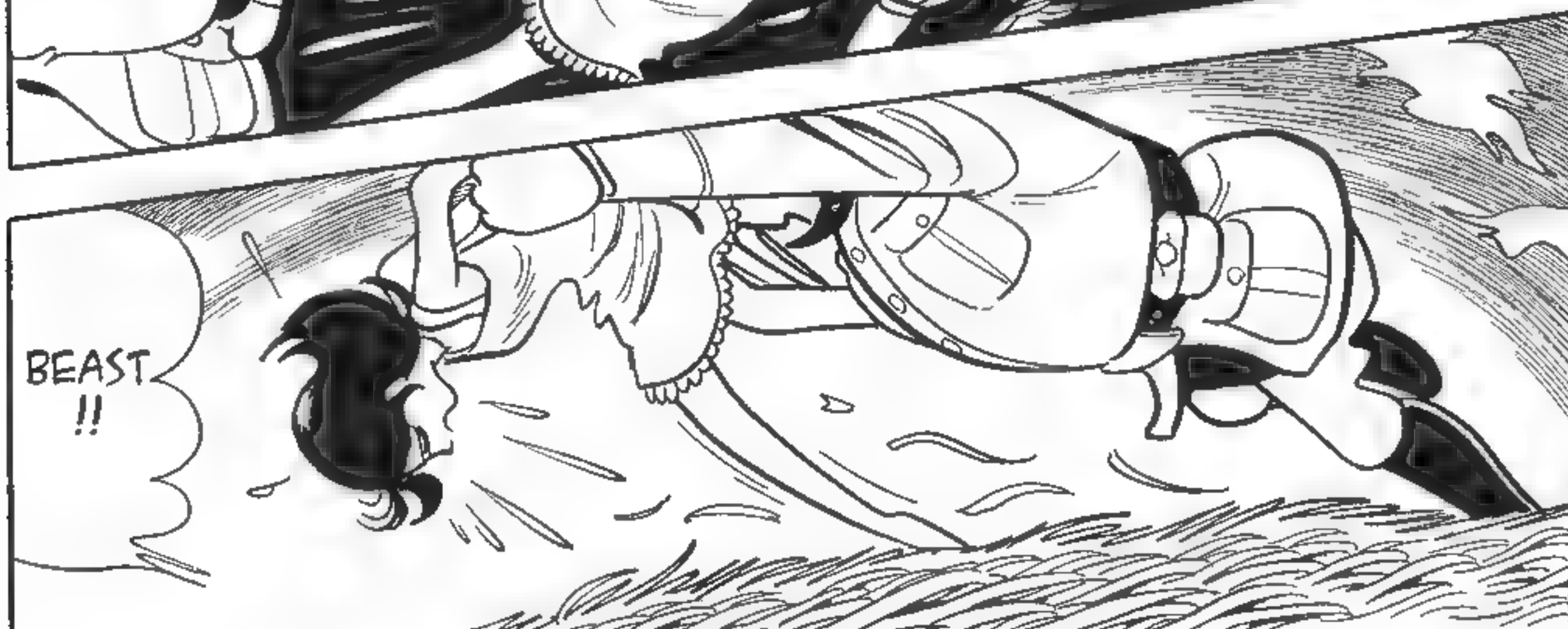
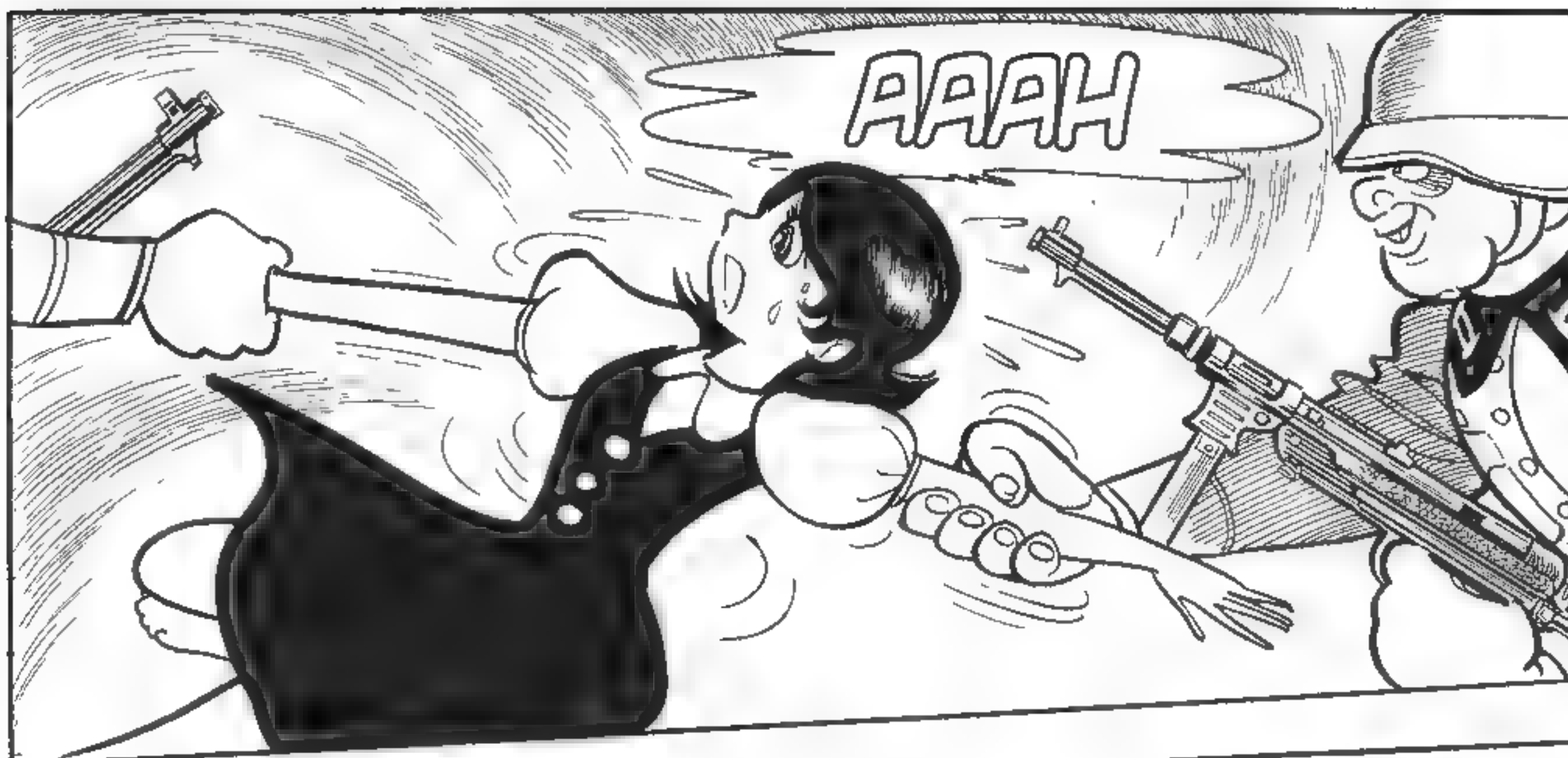


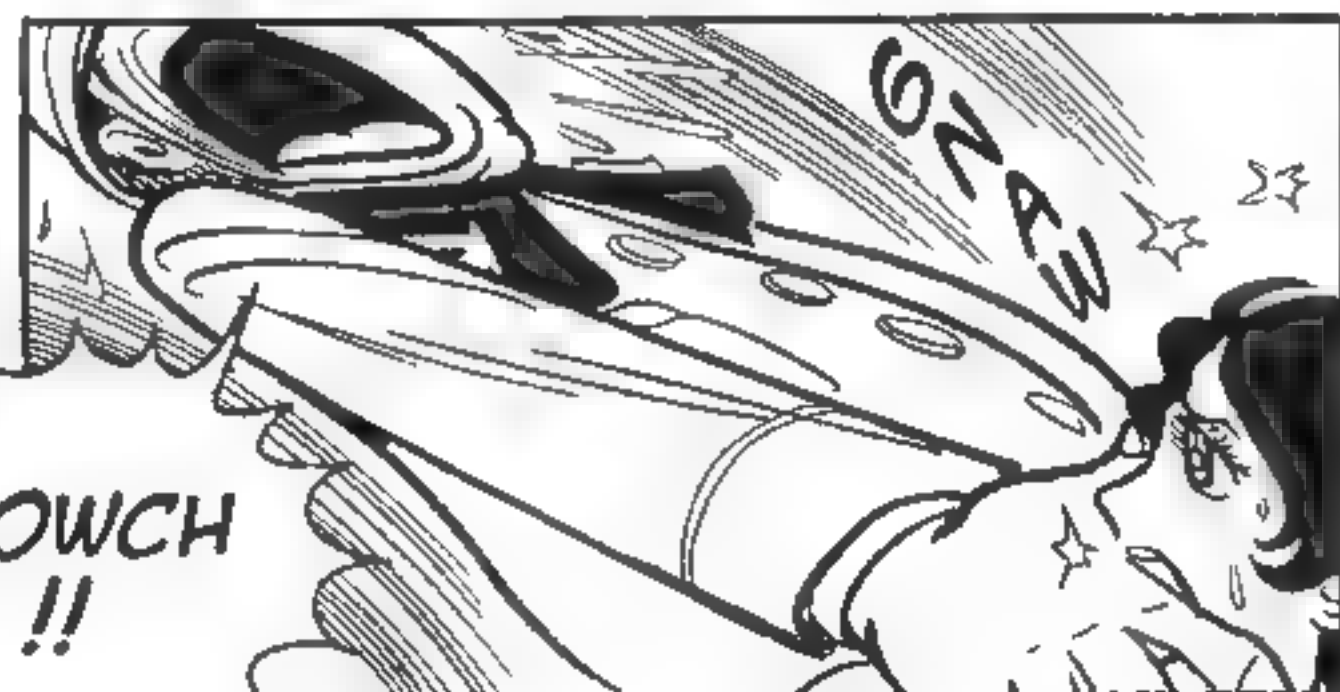
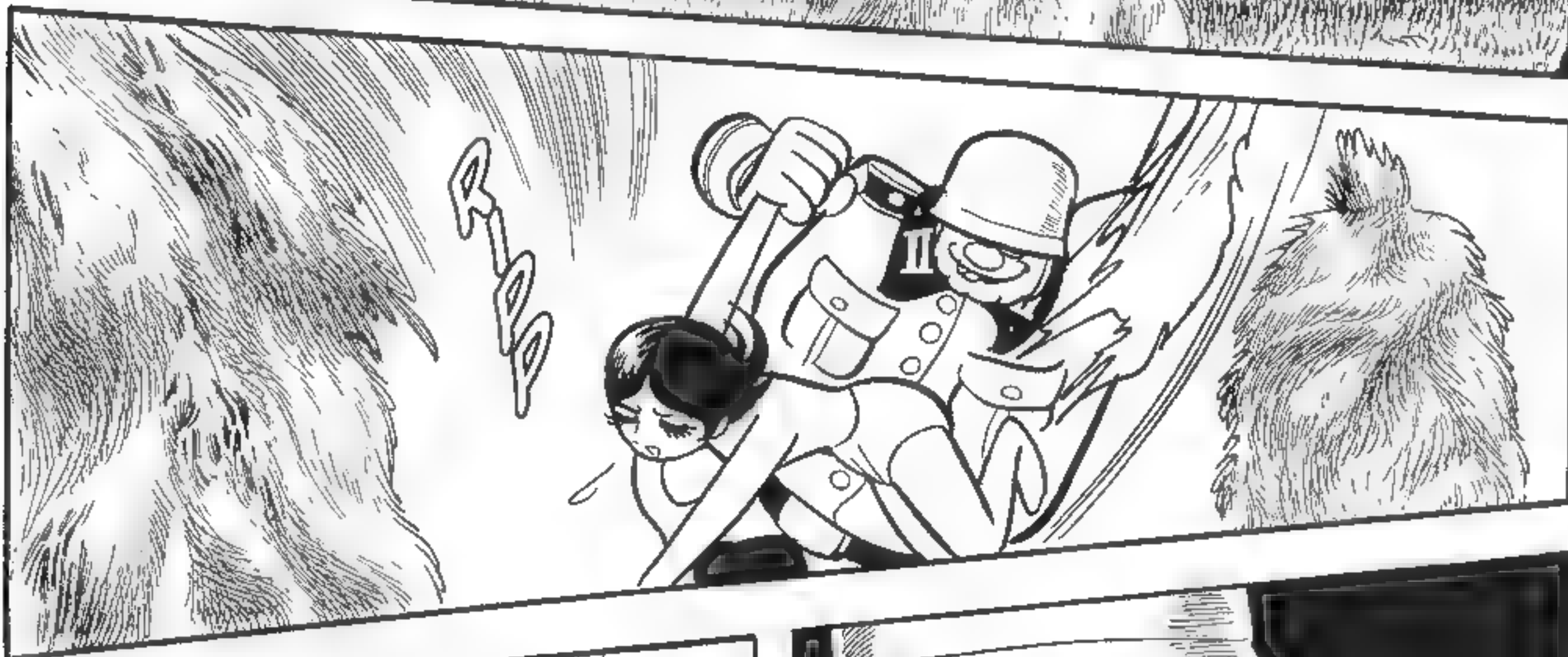


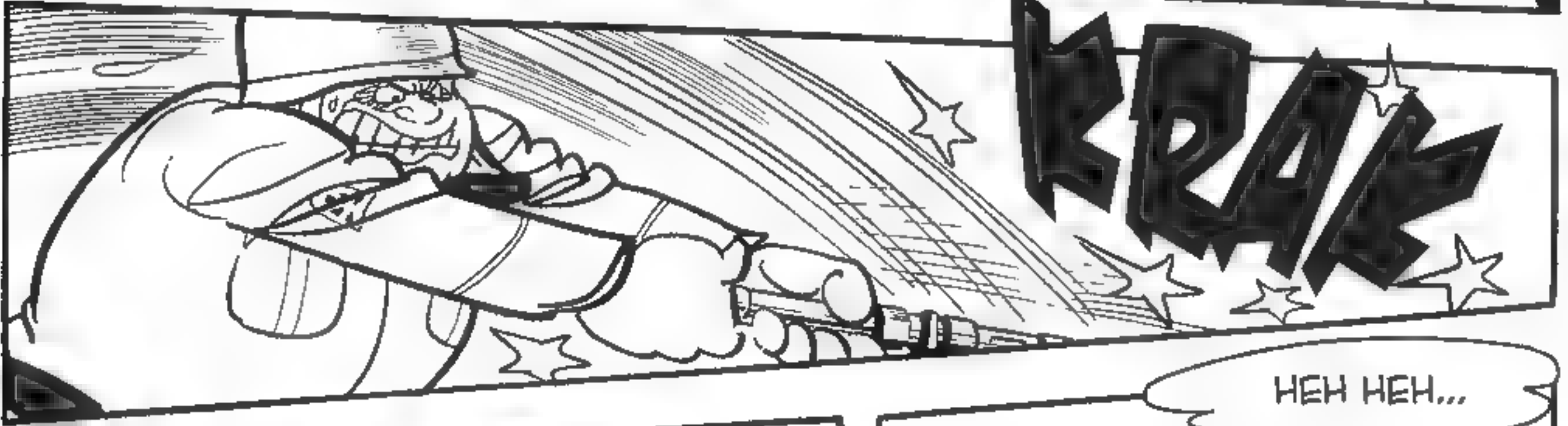




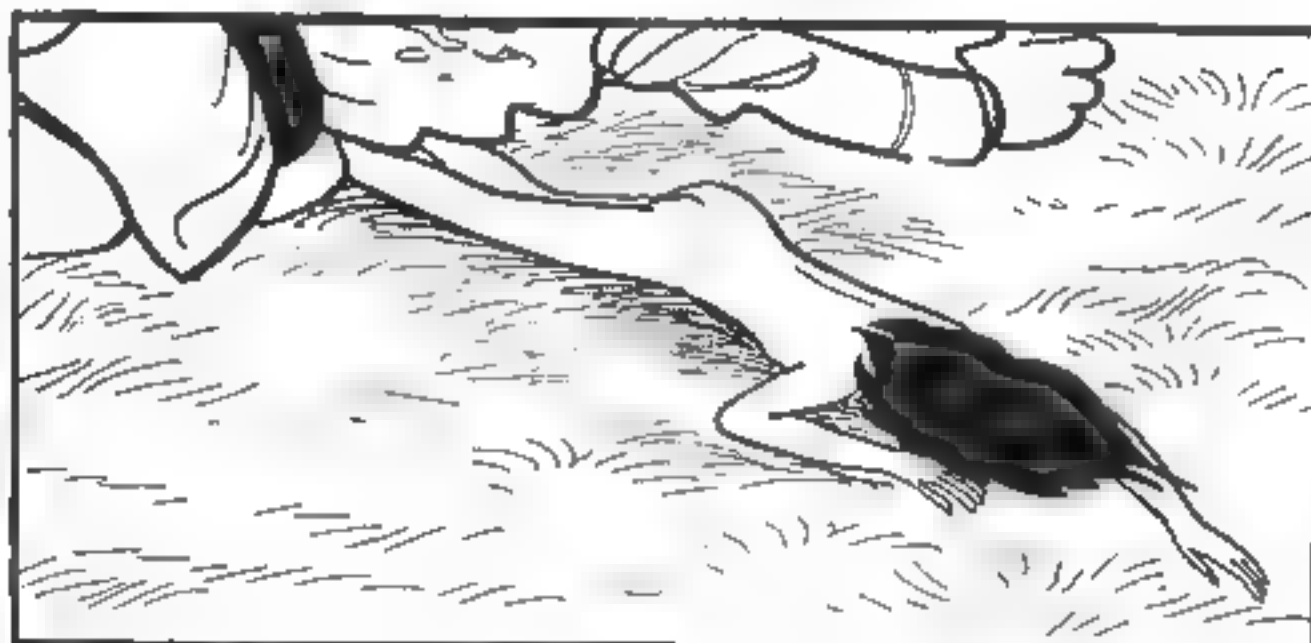
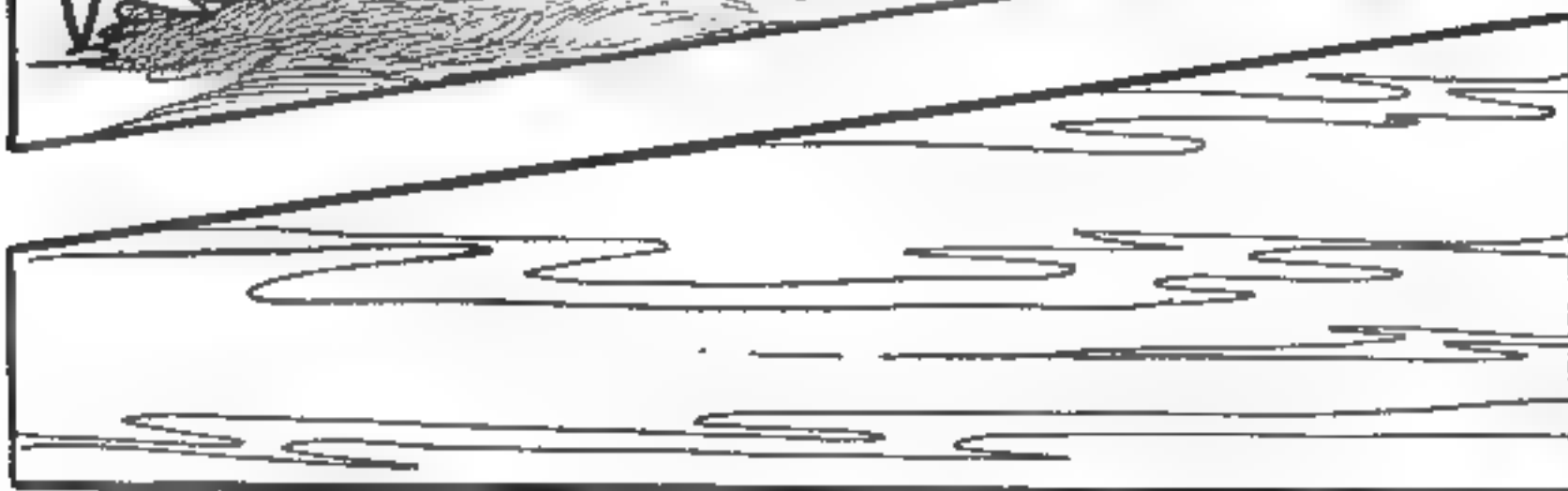
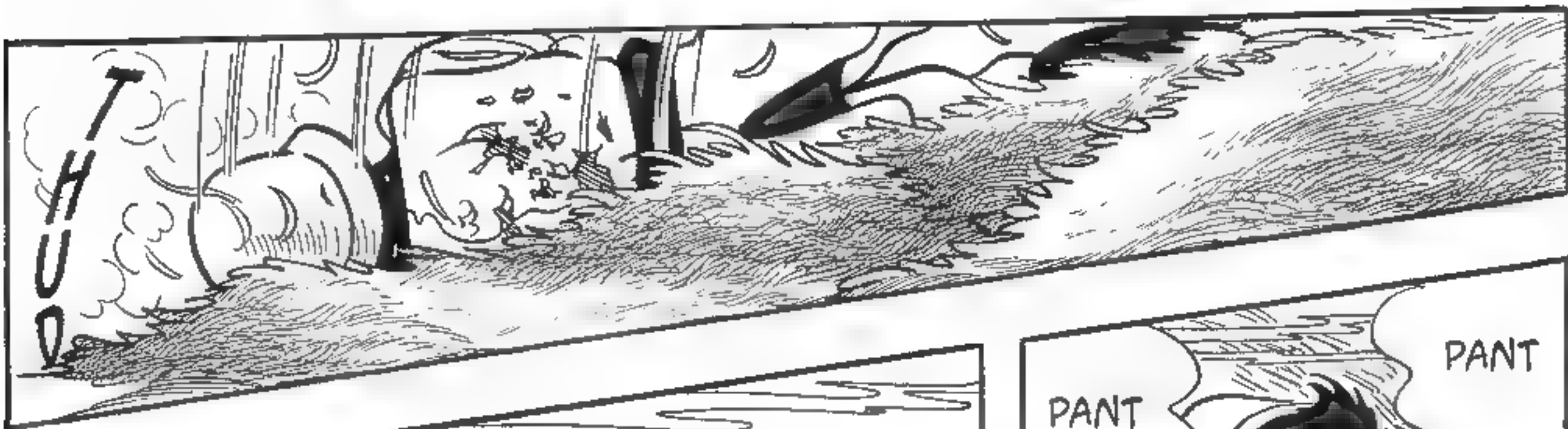




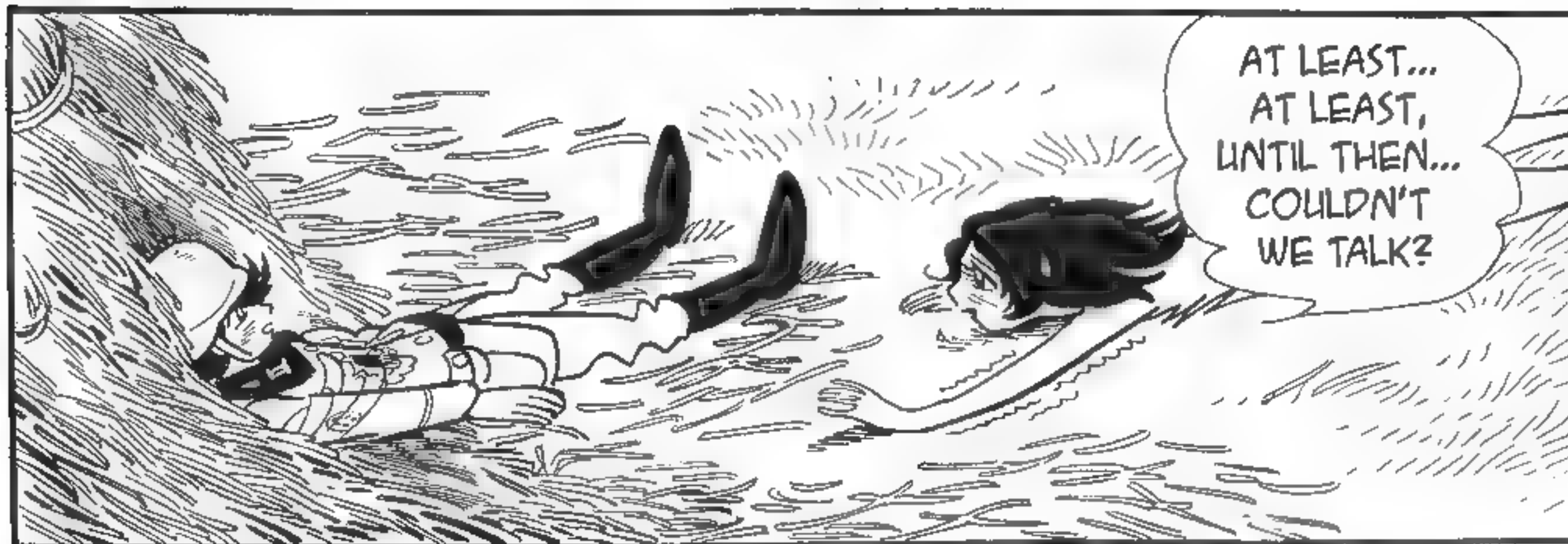


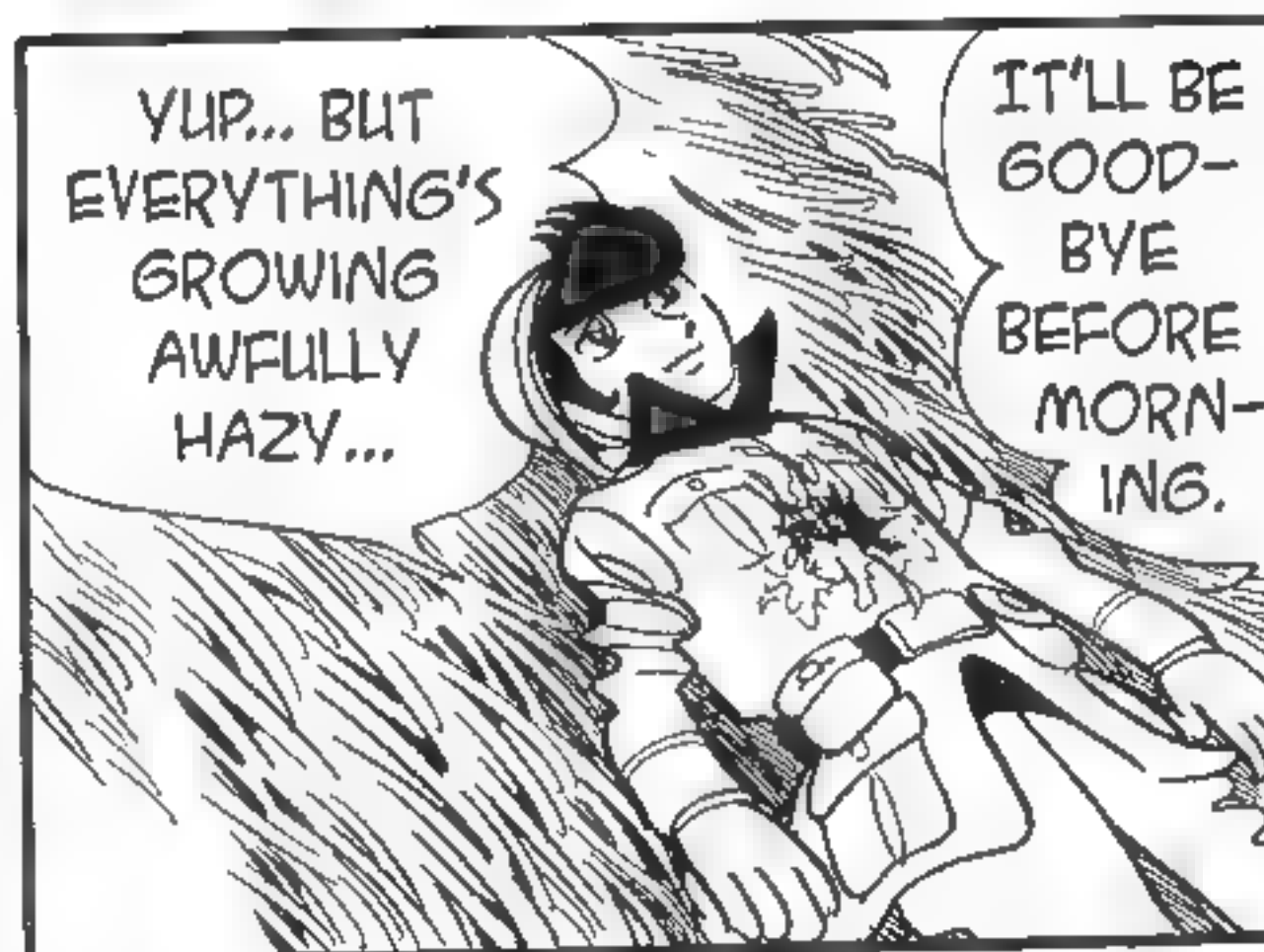
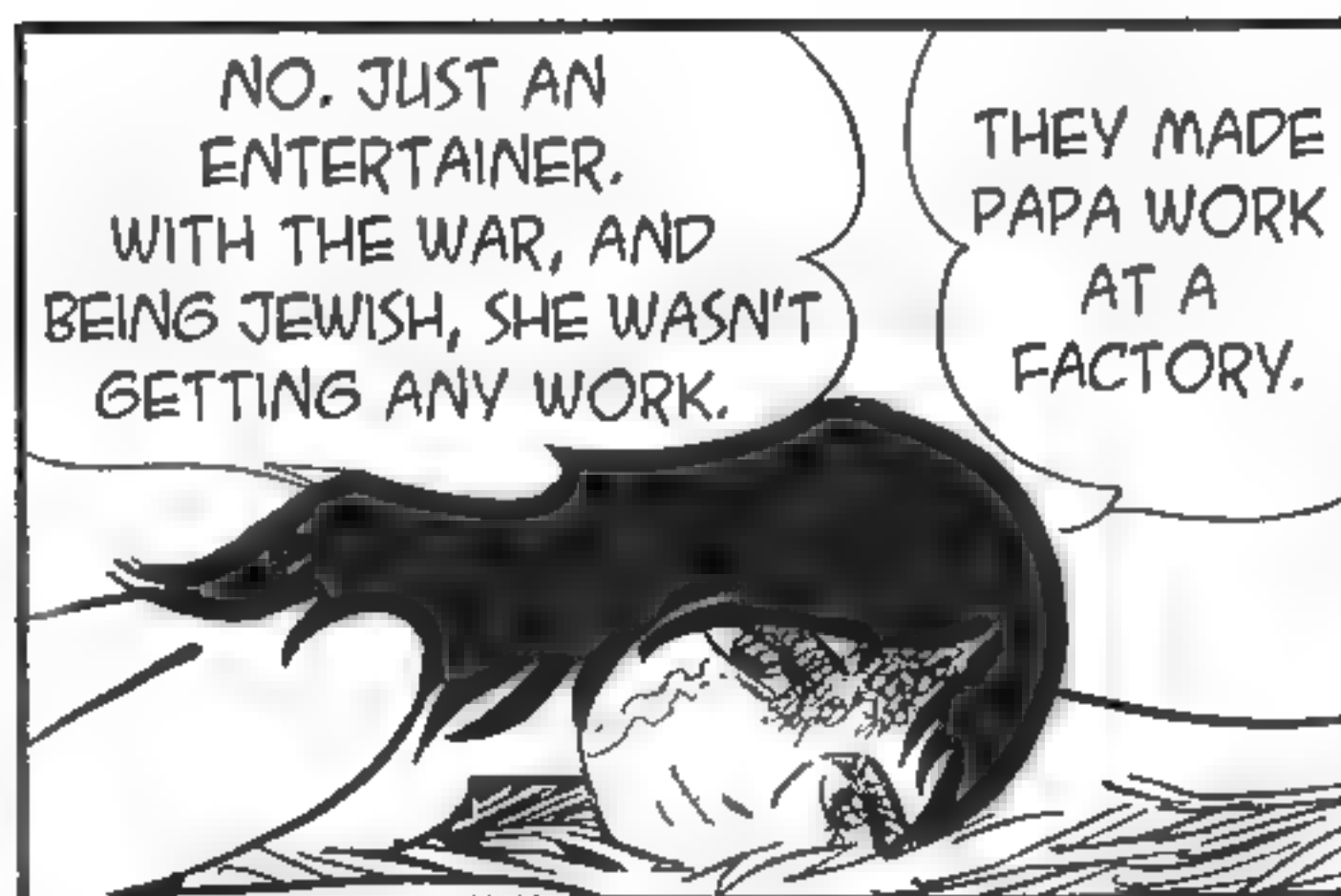




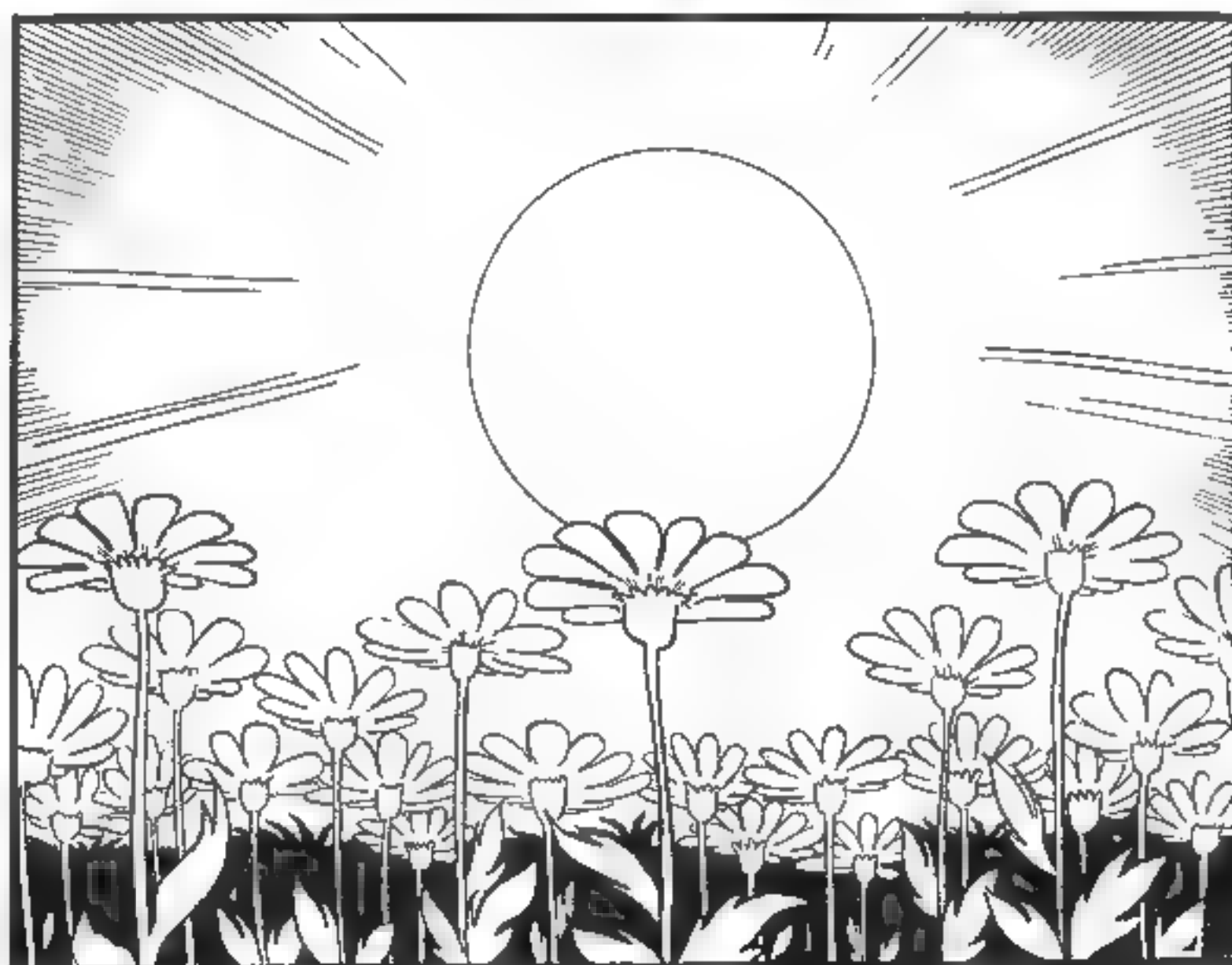
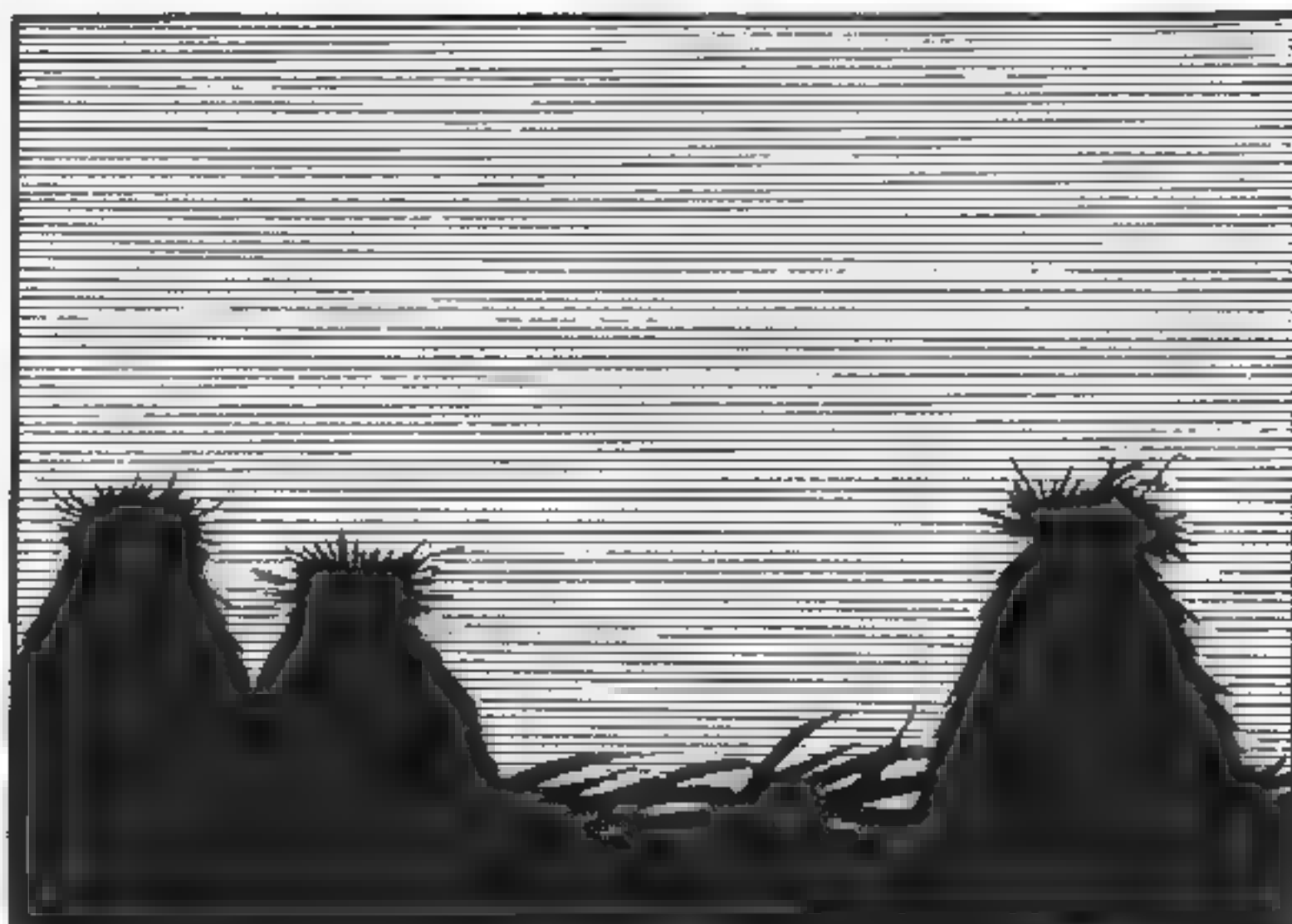
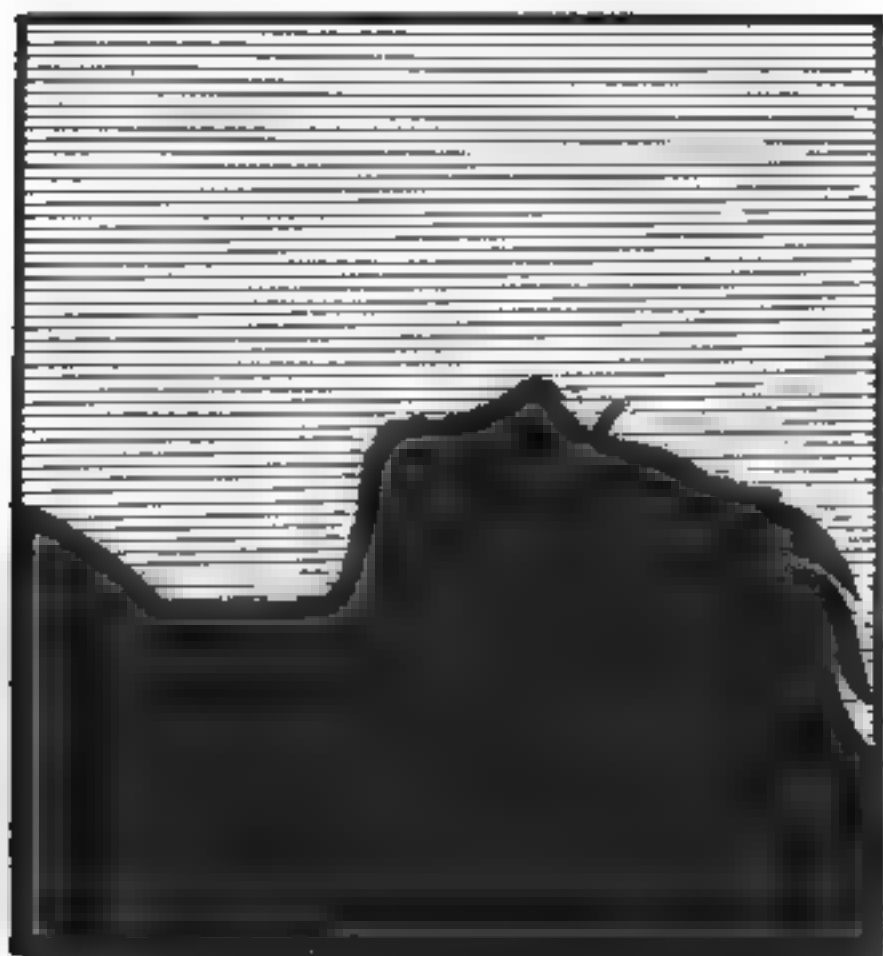




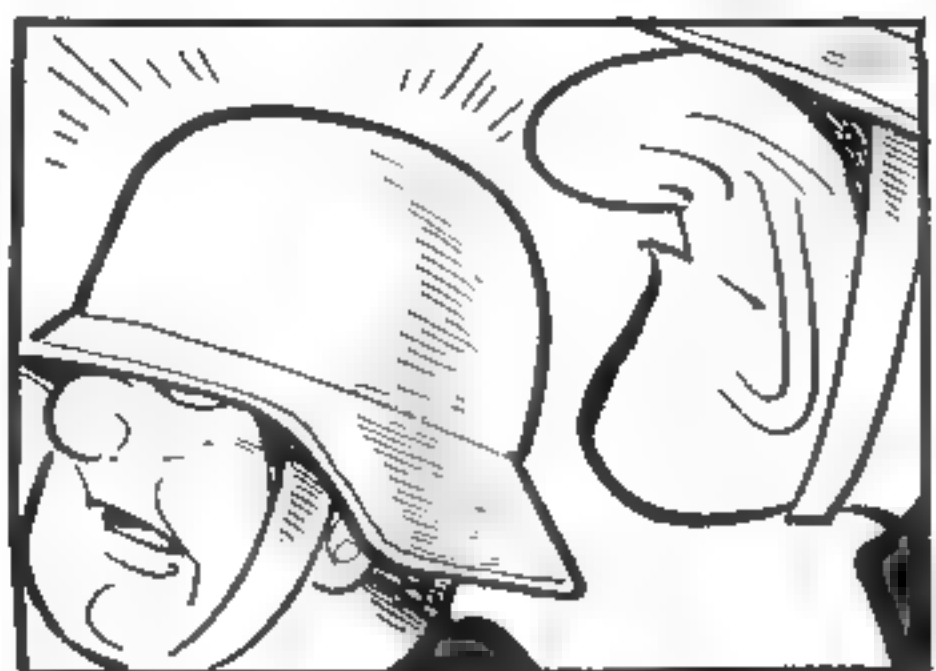
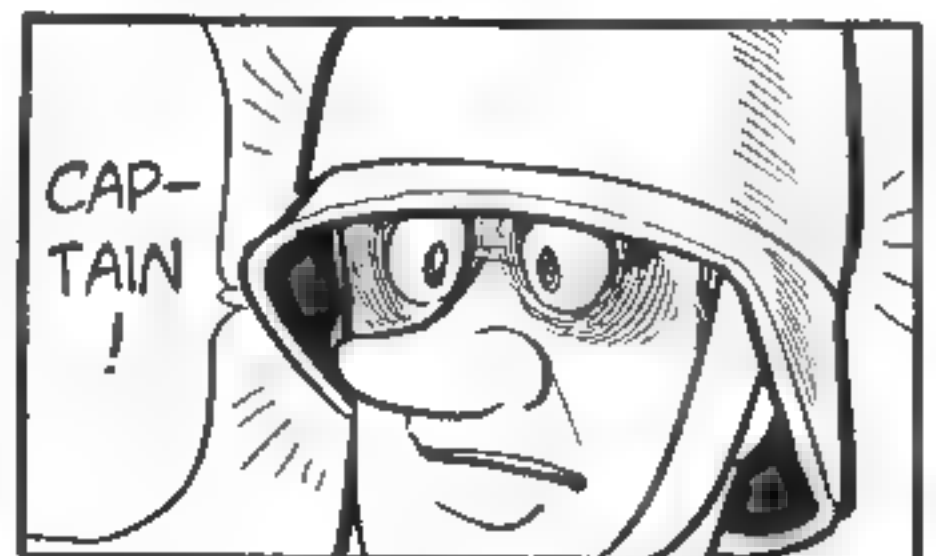
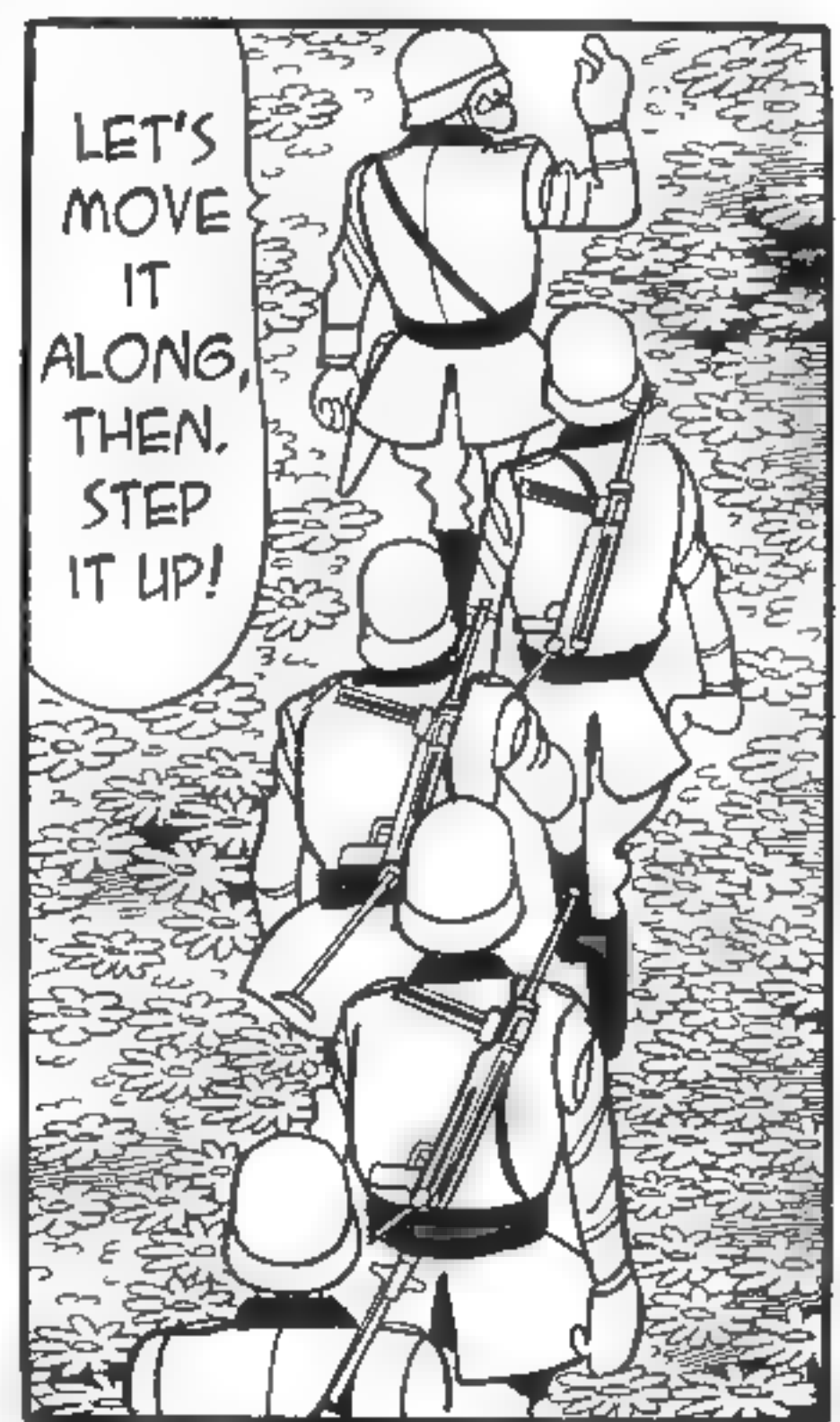
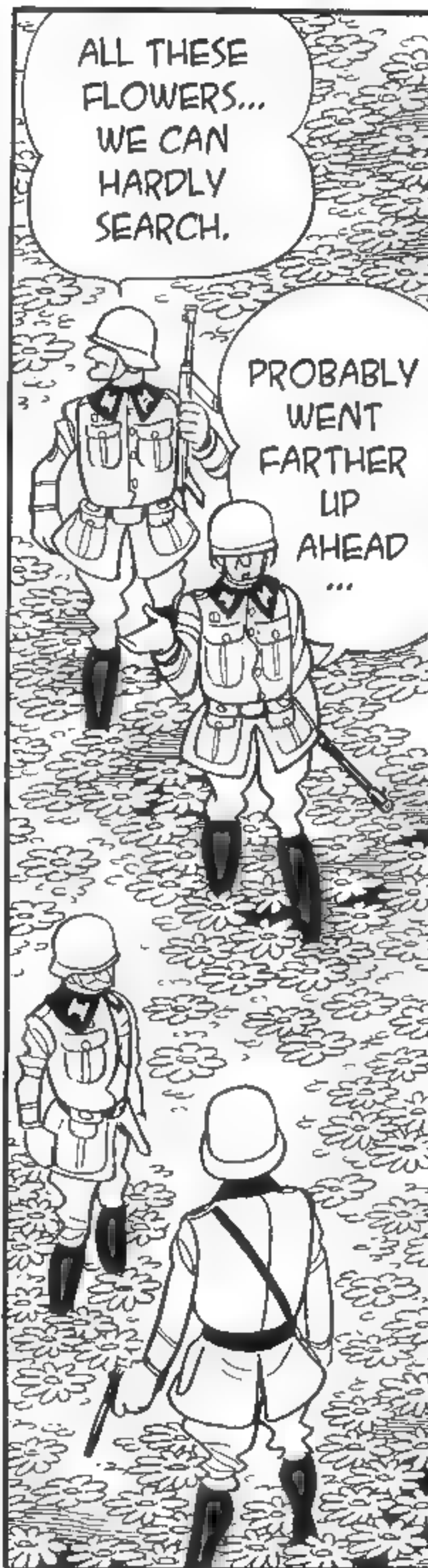
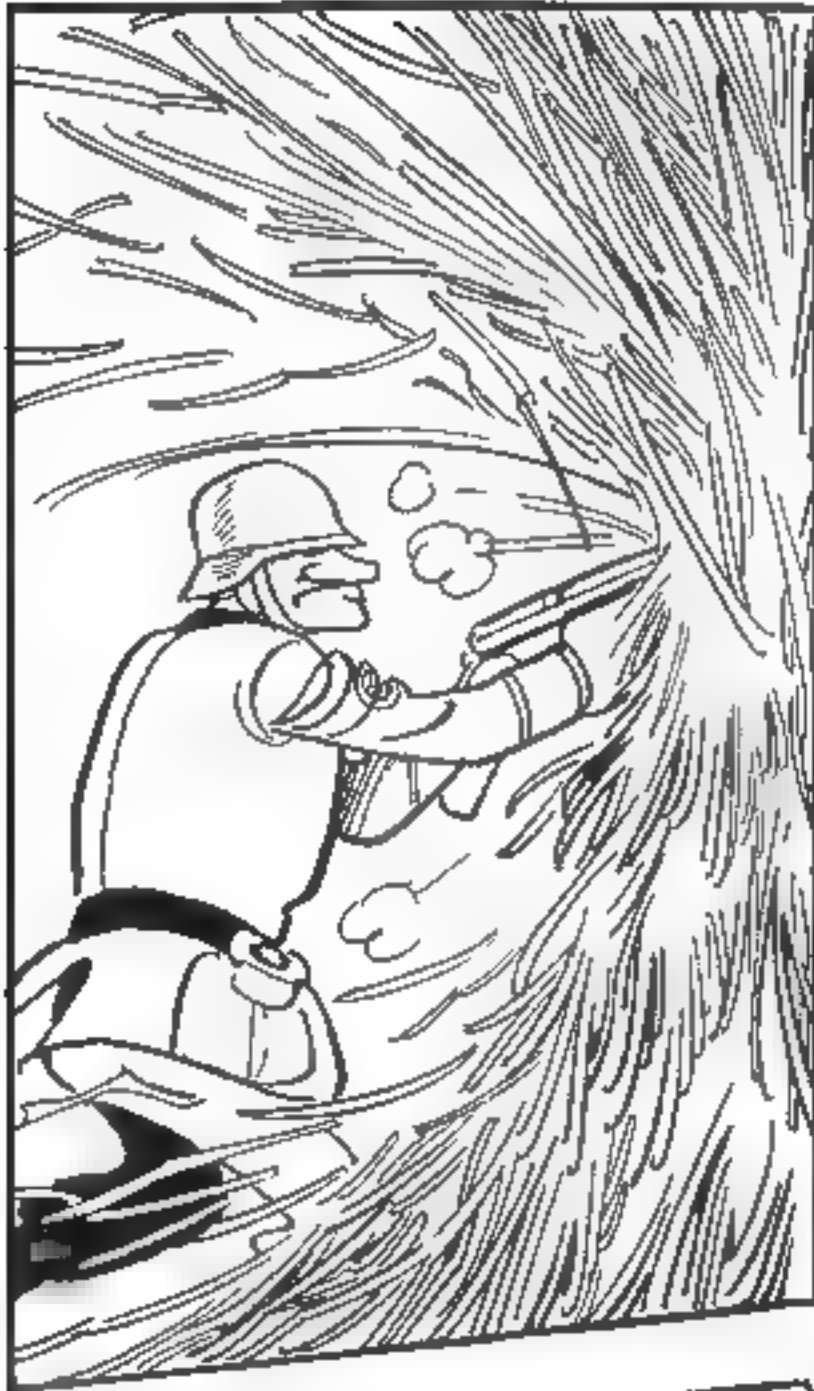
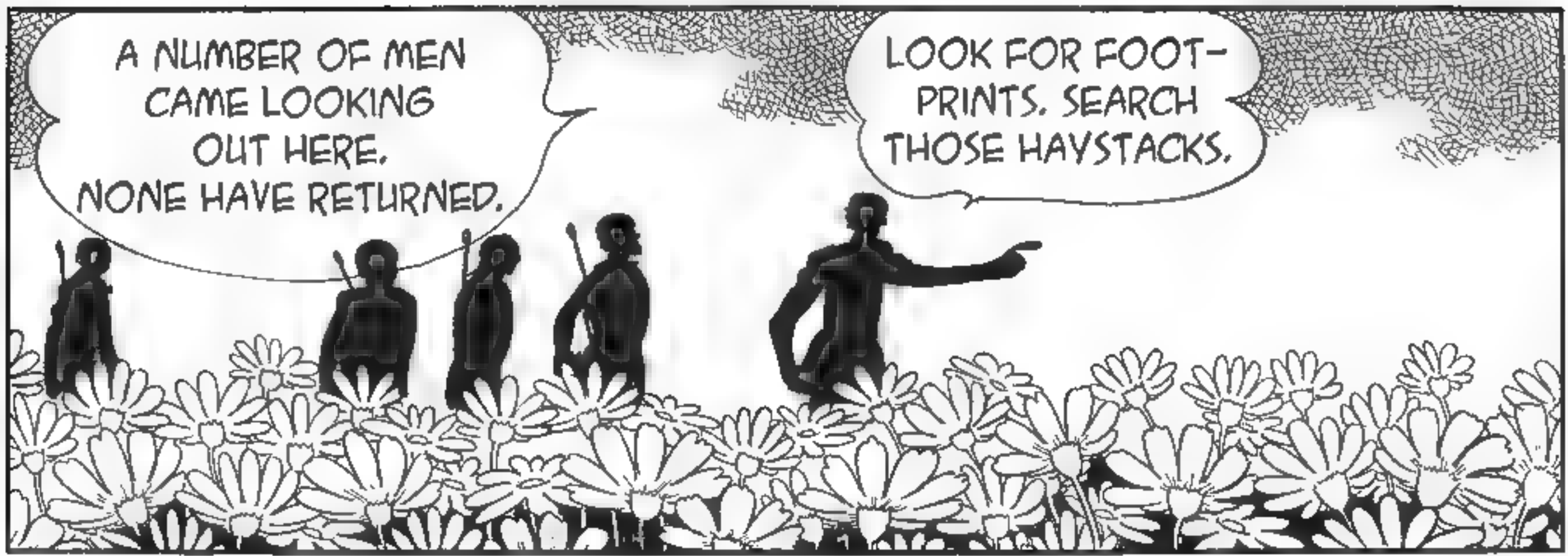


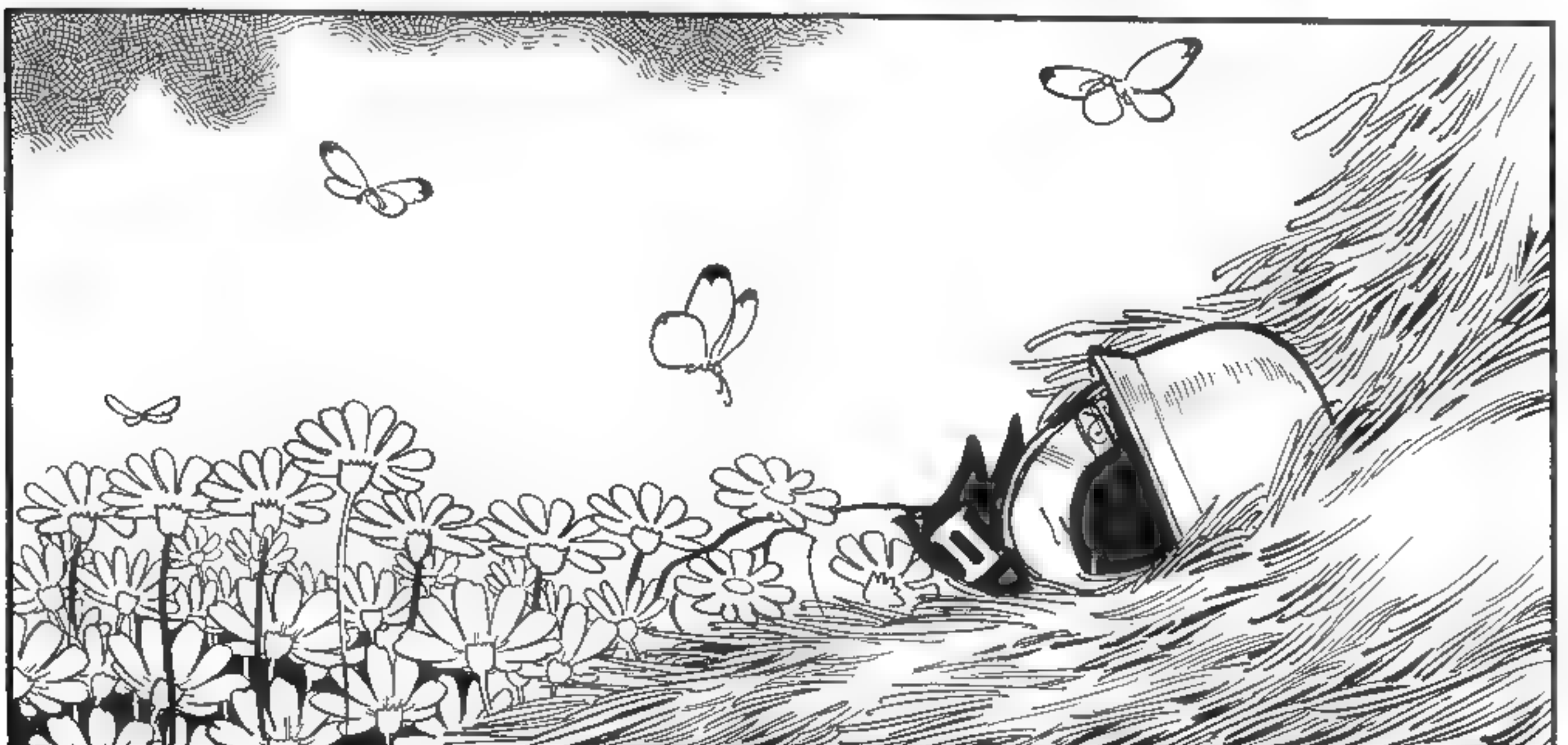
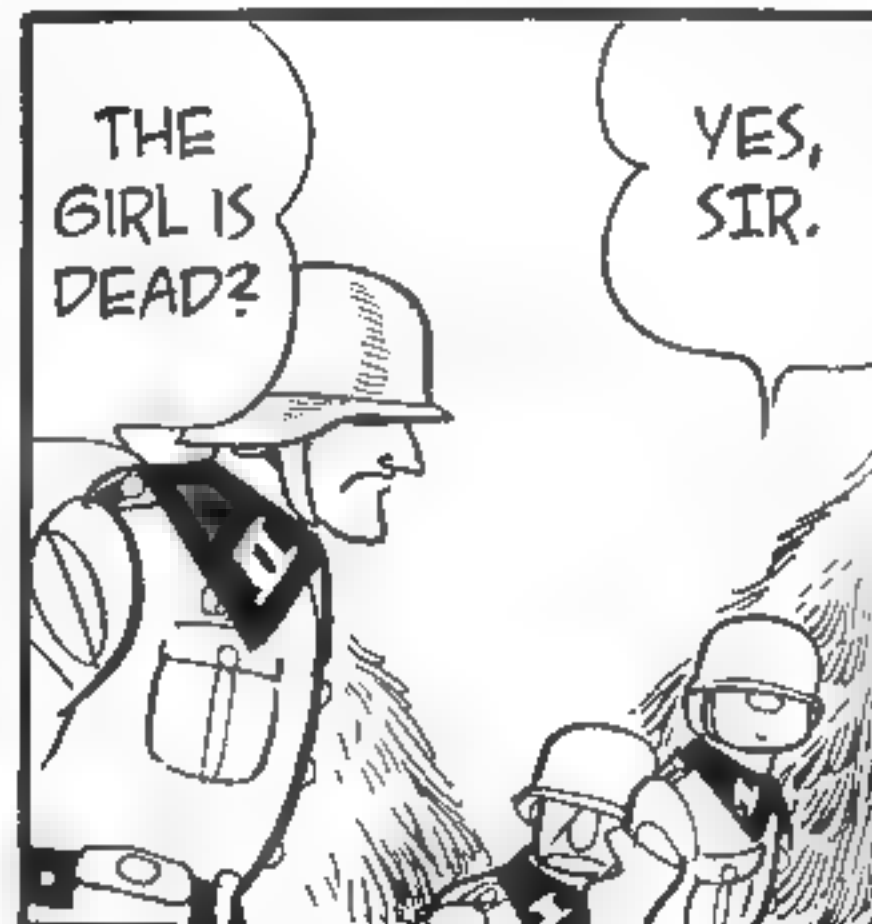
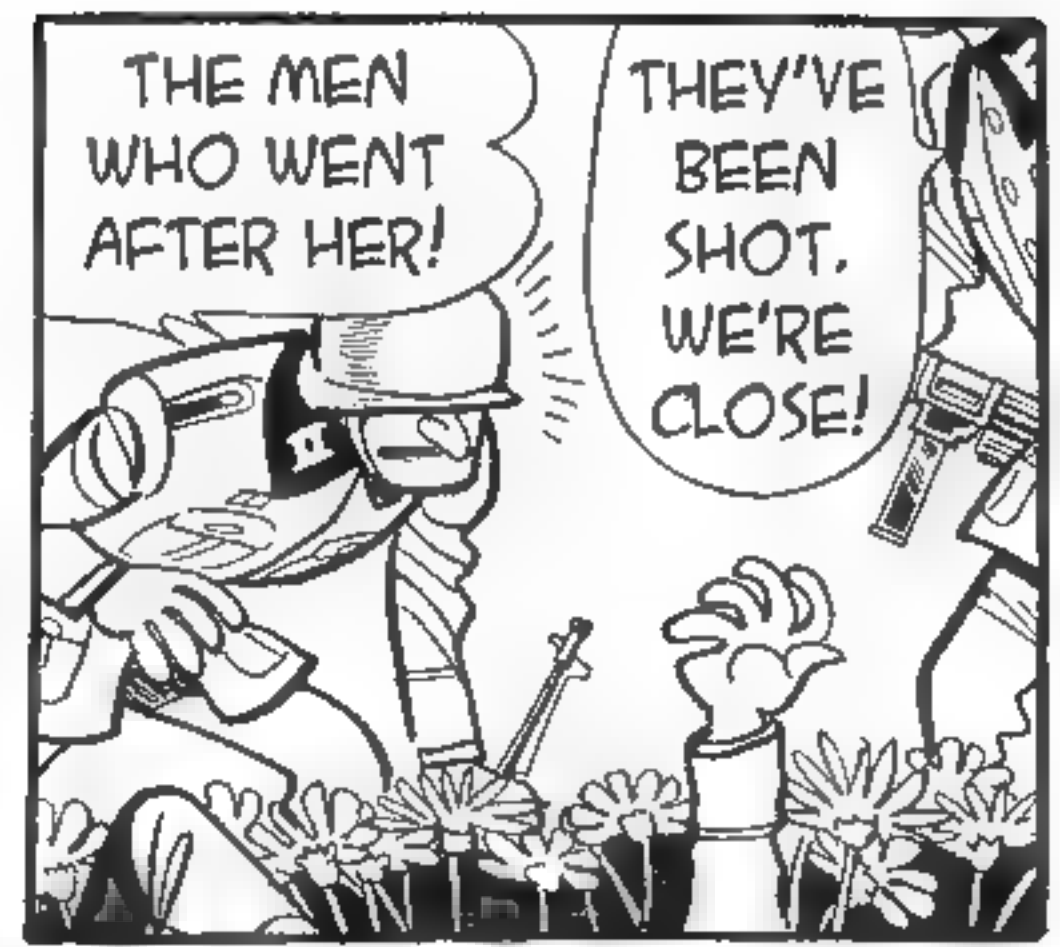
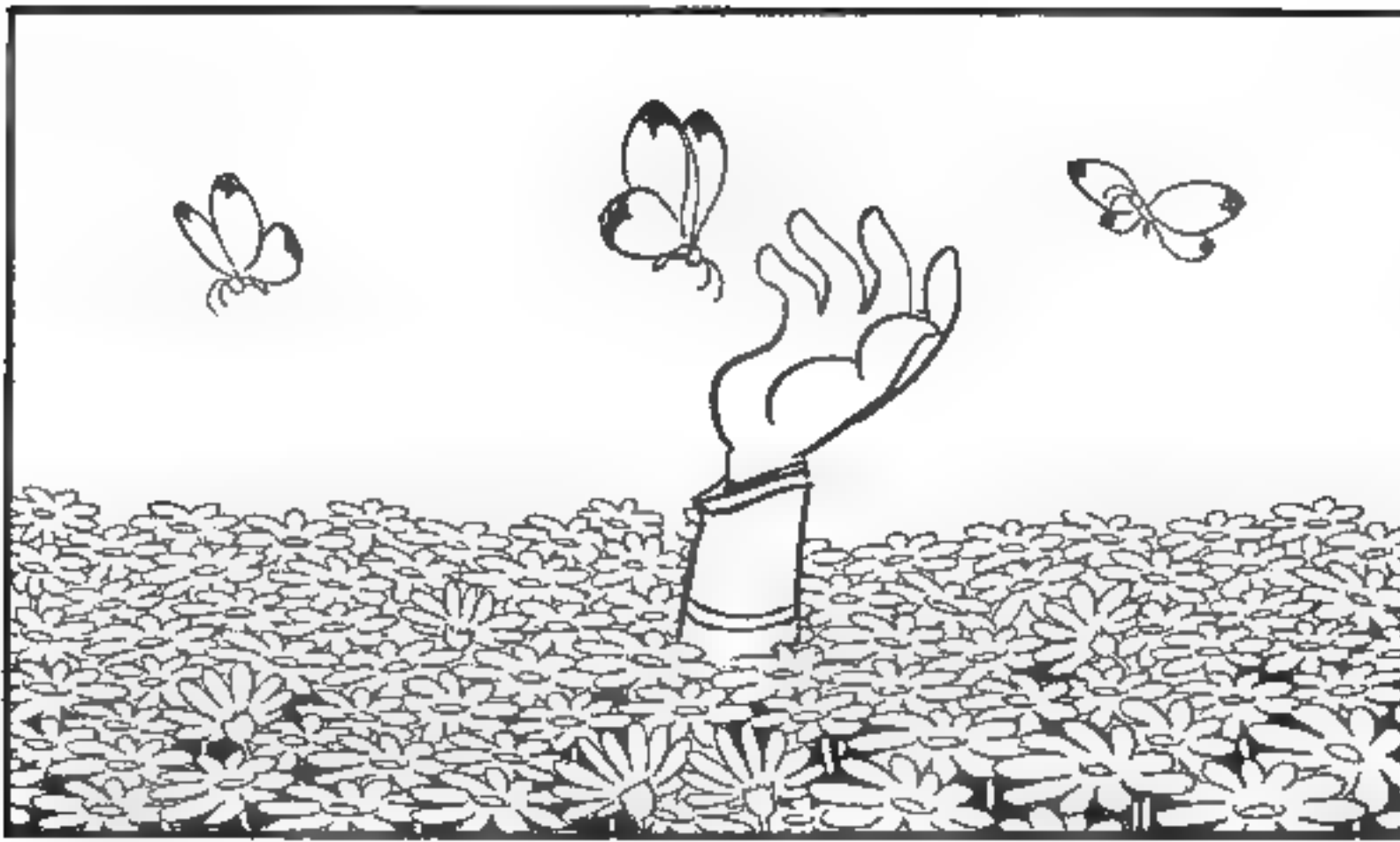


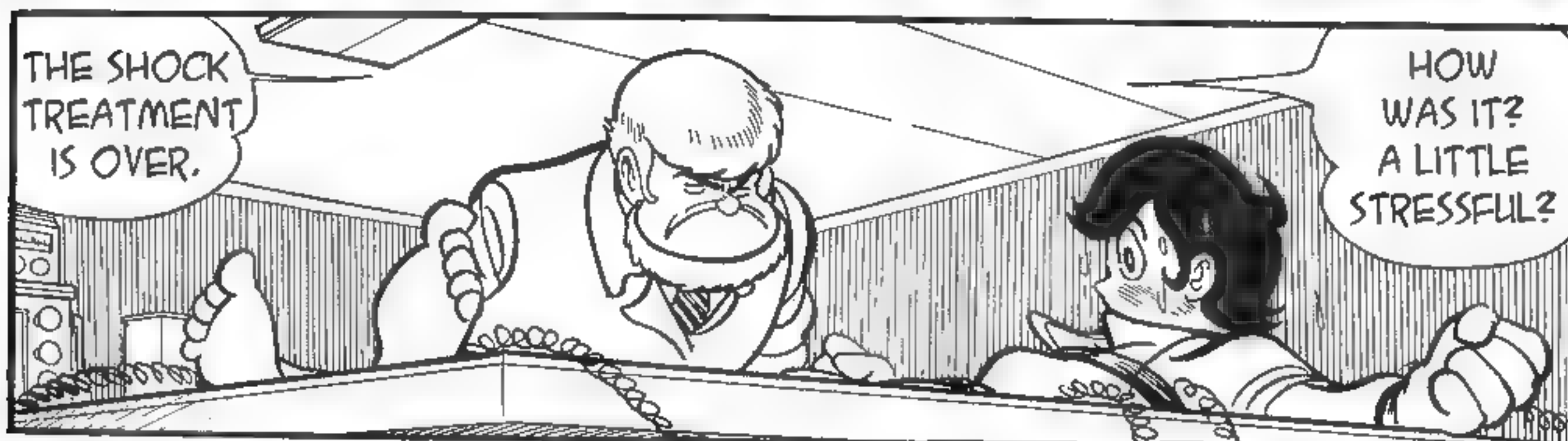
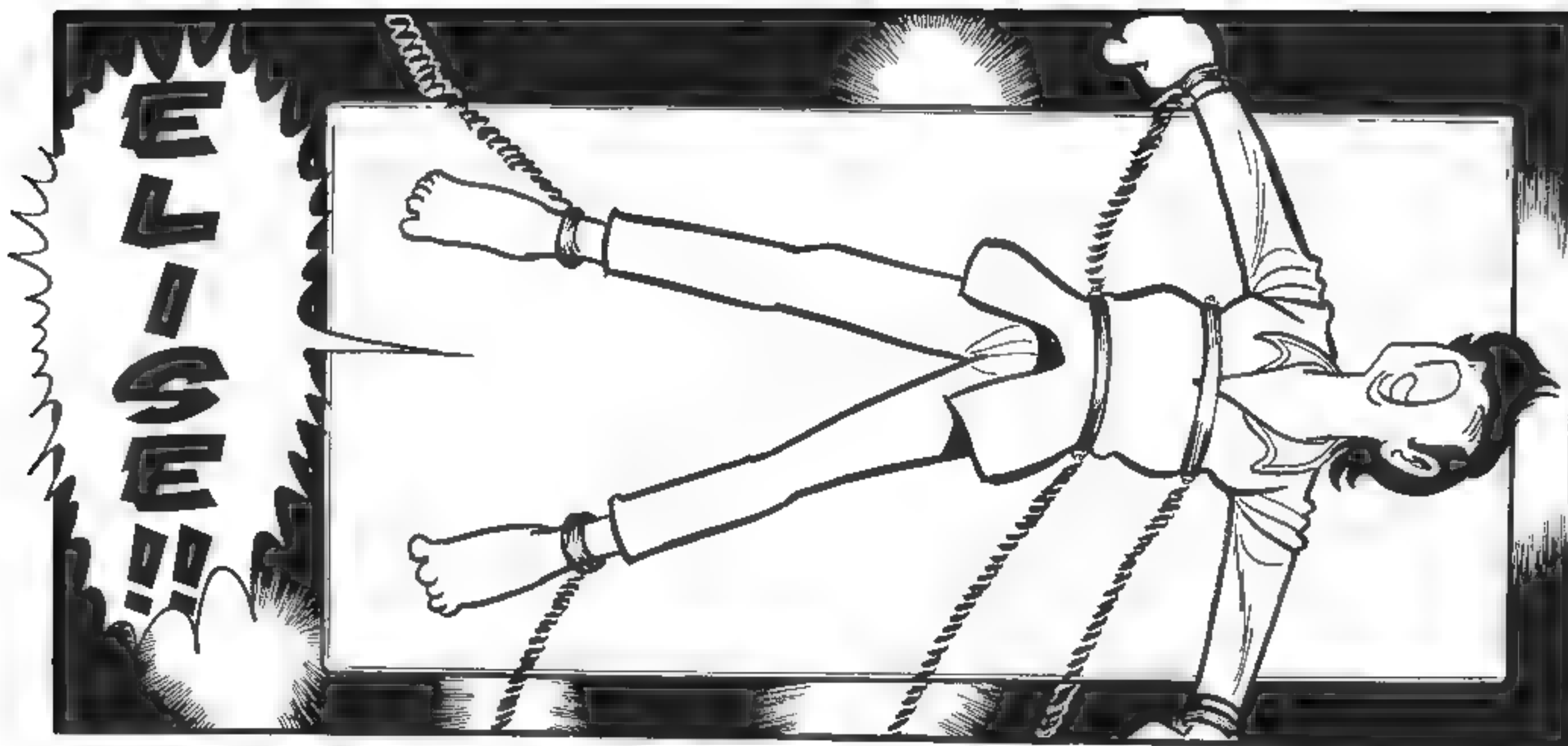


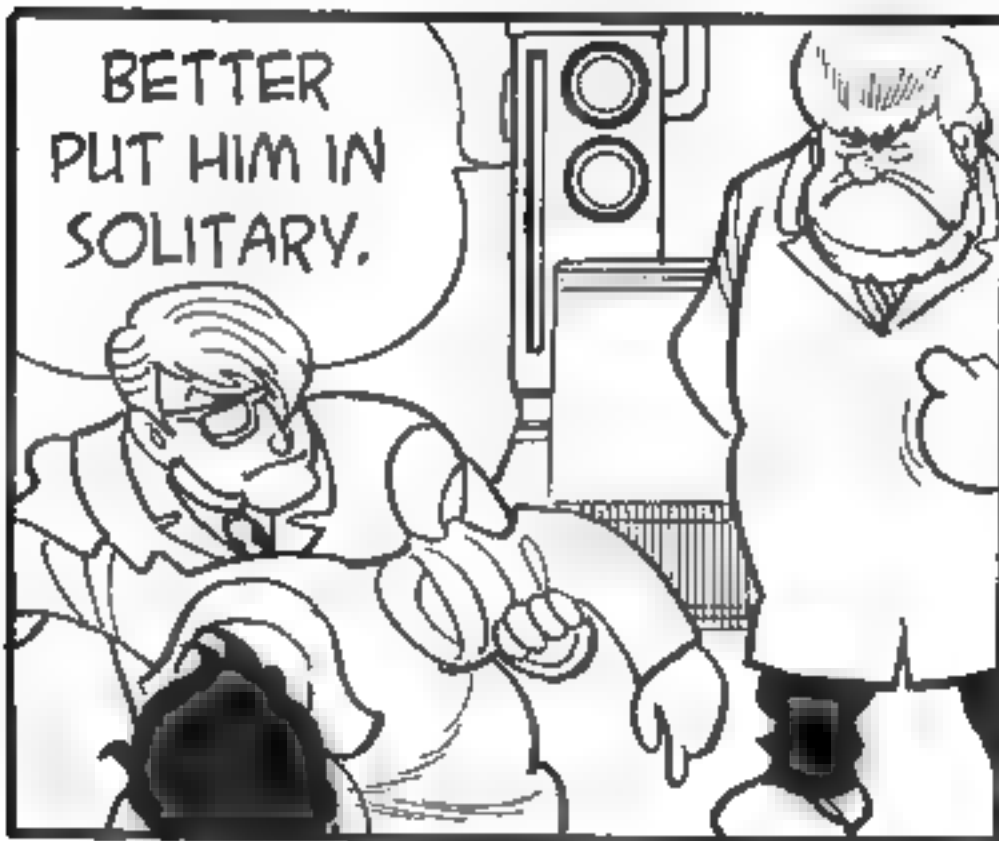




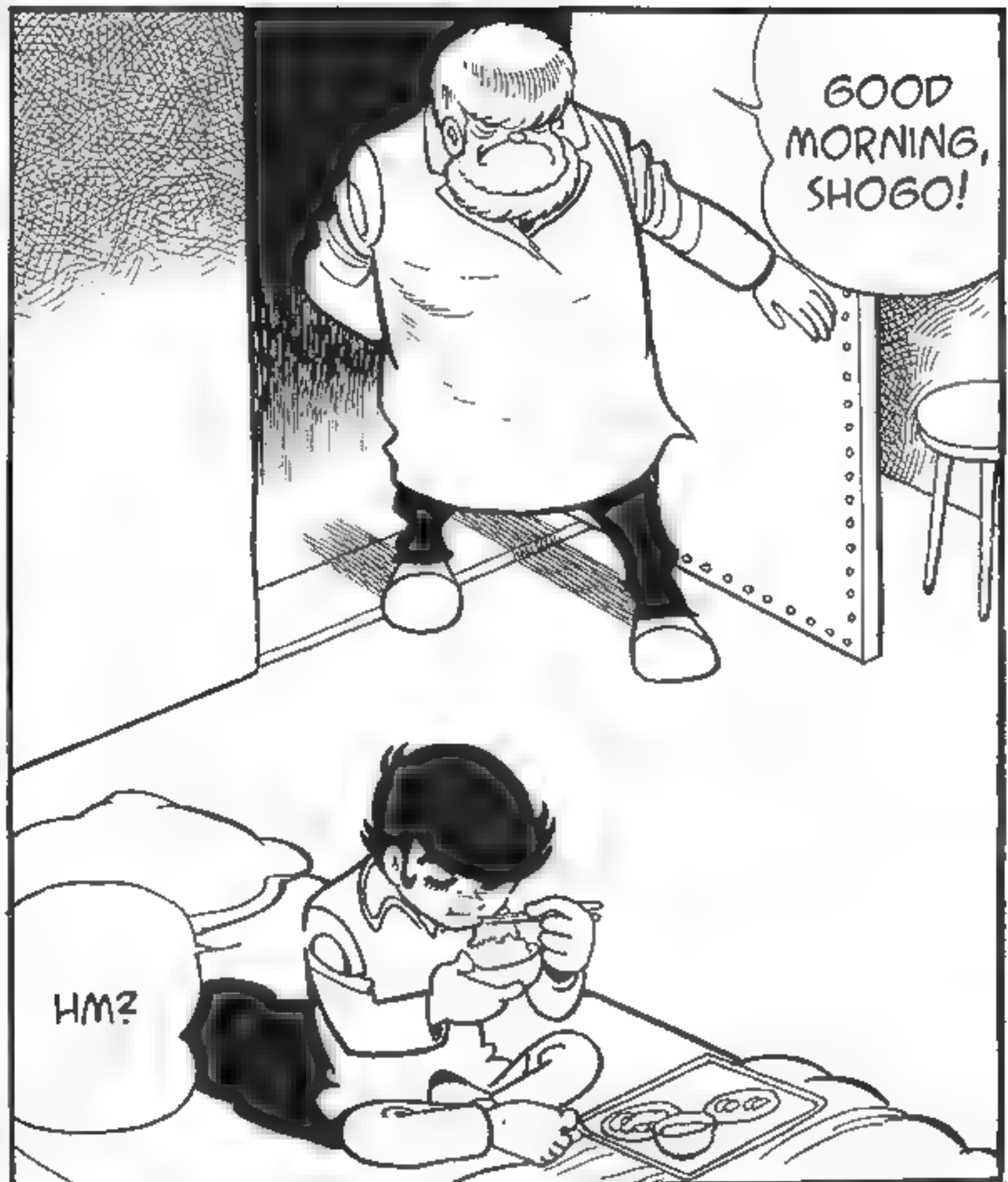








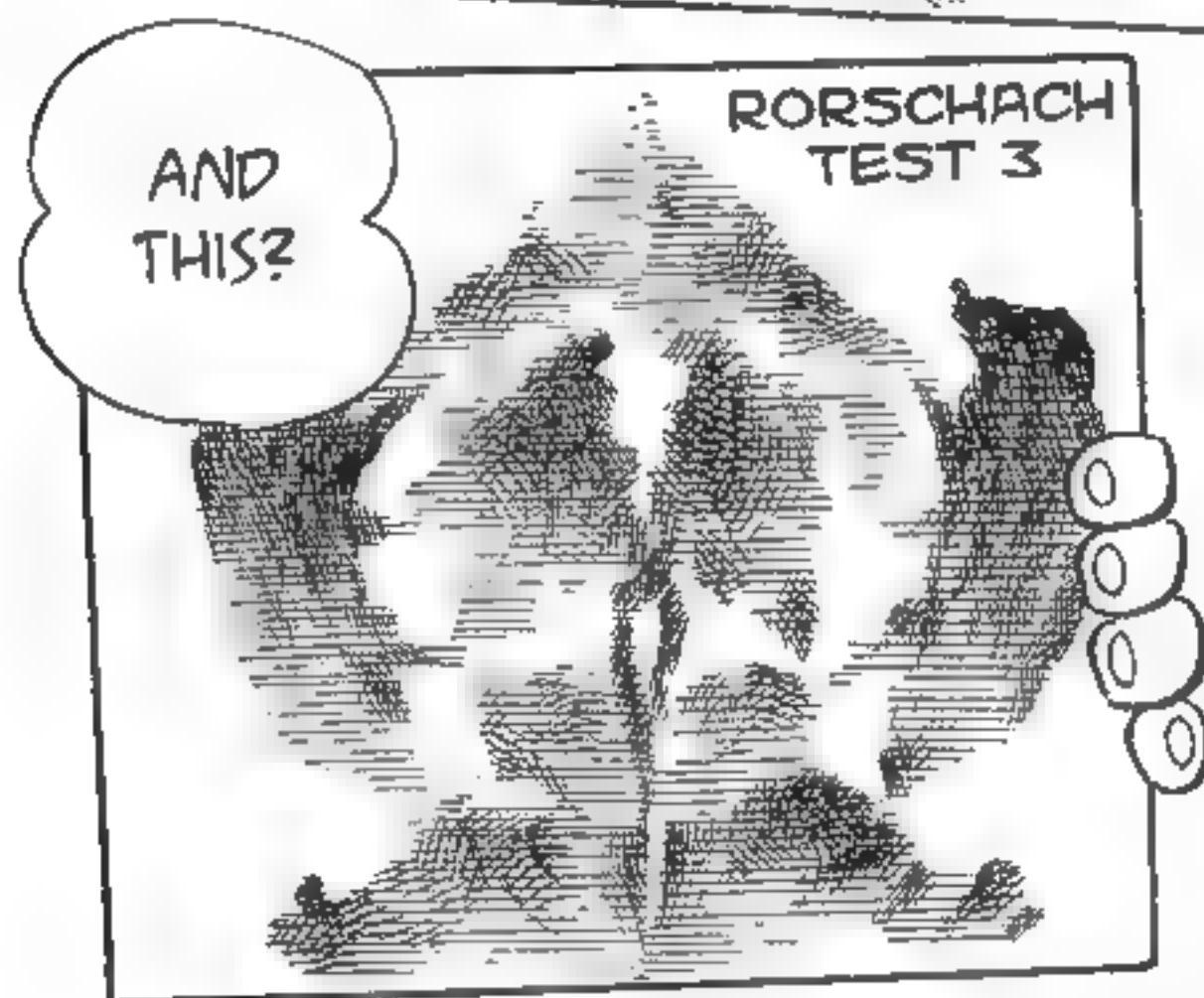
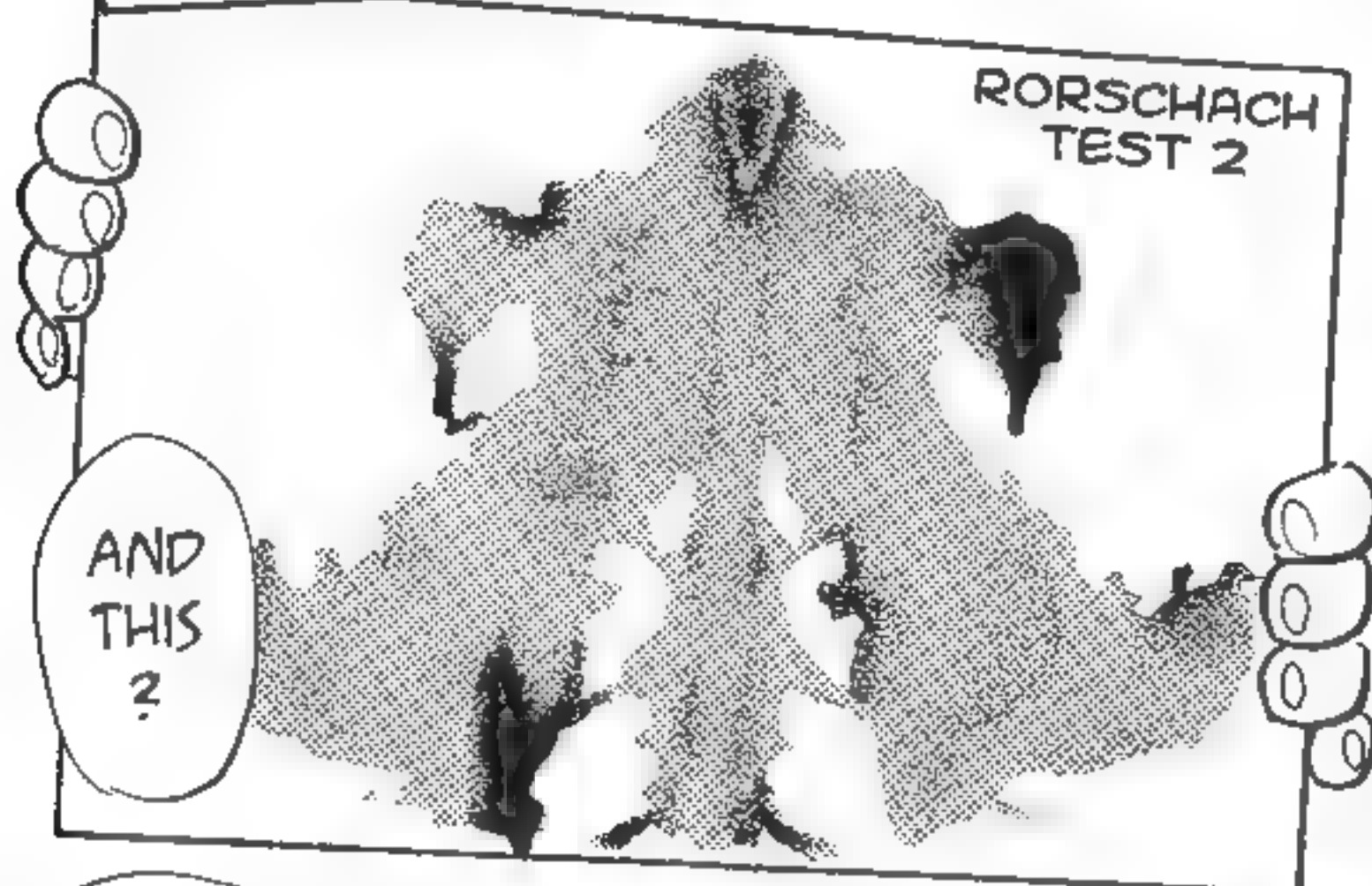
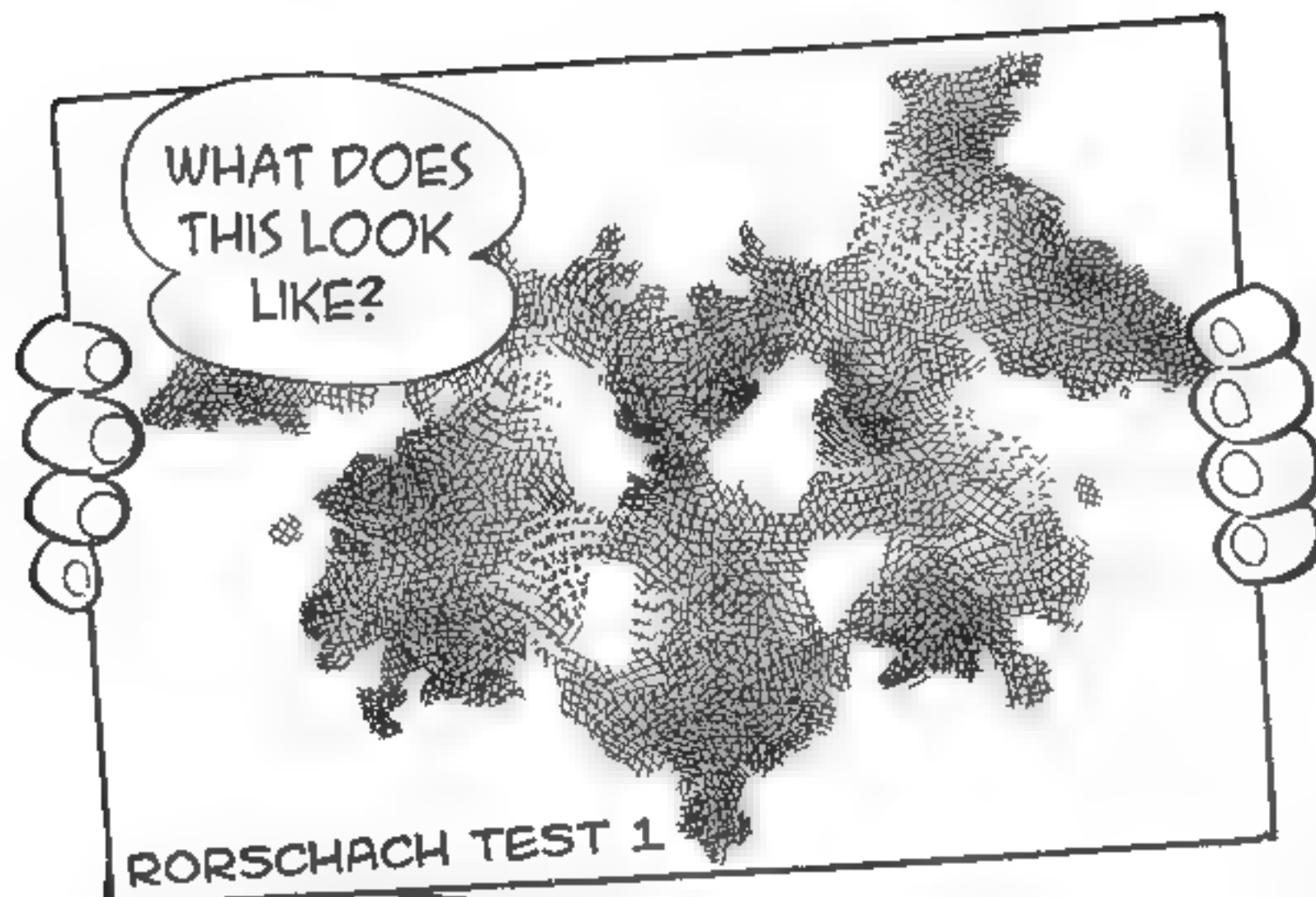
CHAPTER 2: NO MAN'S LAND

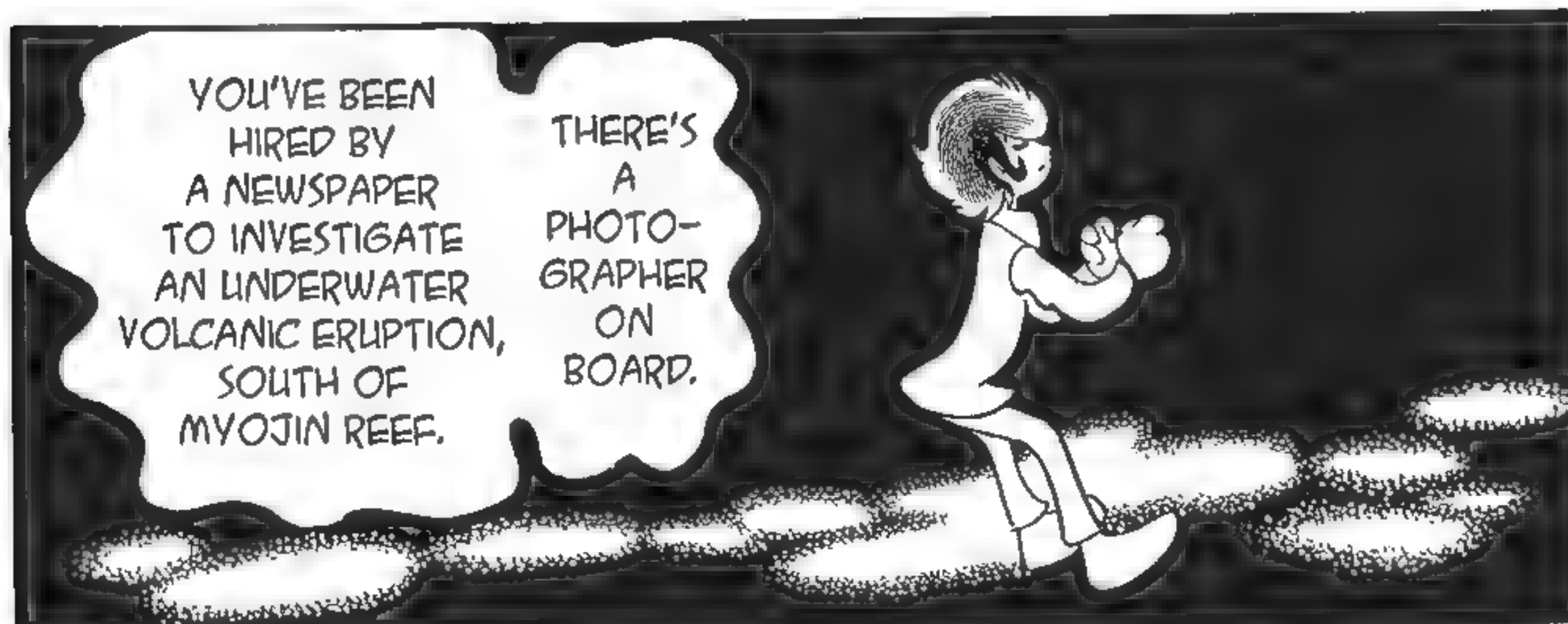
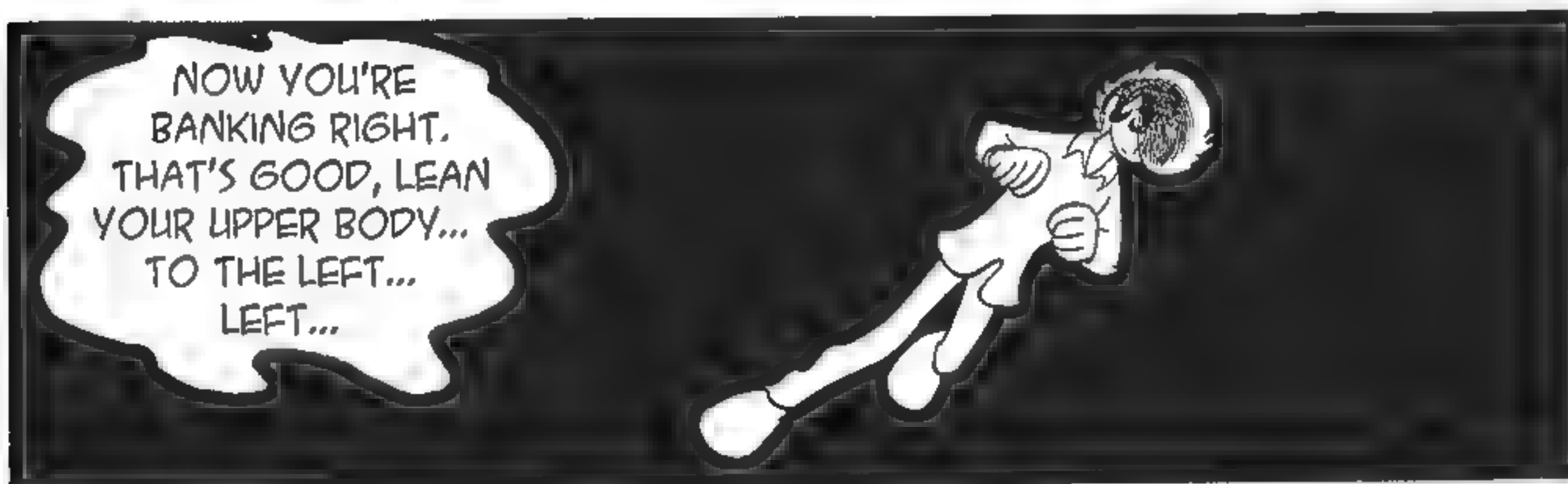
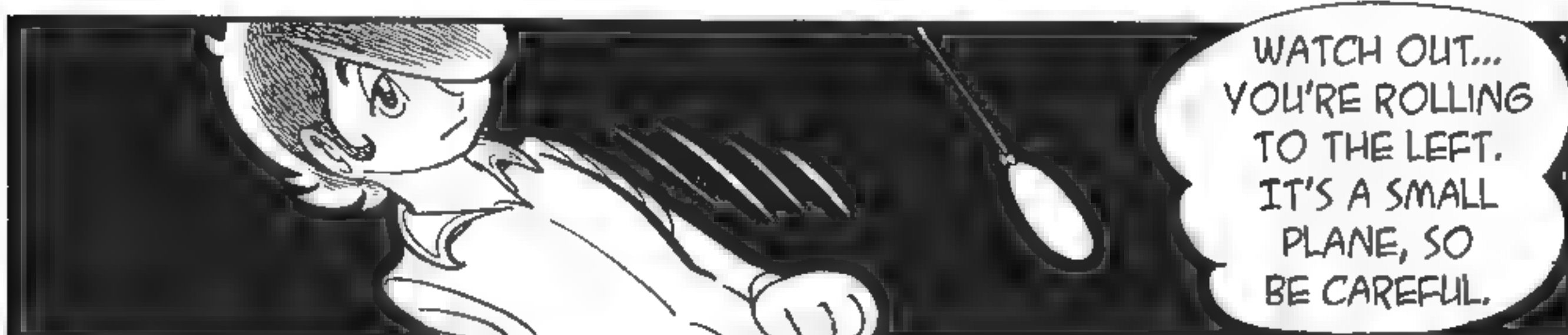








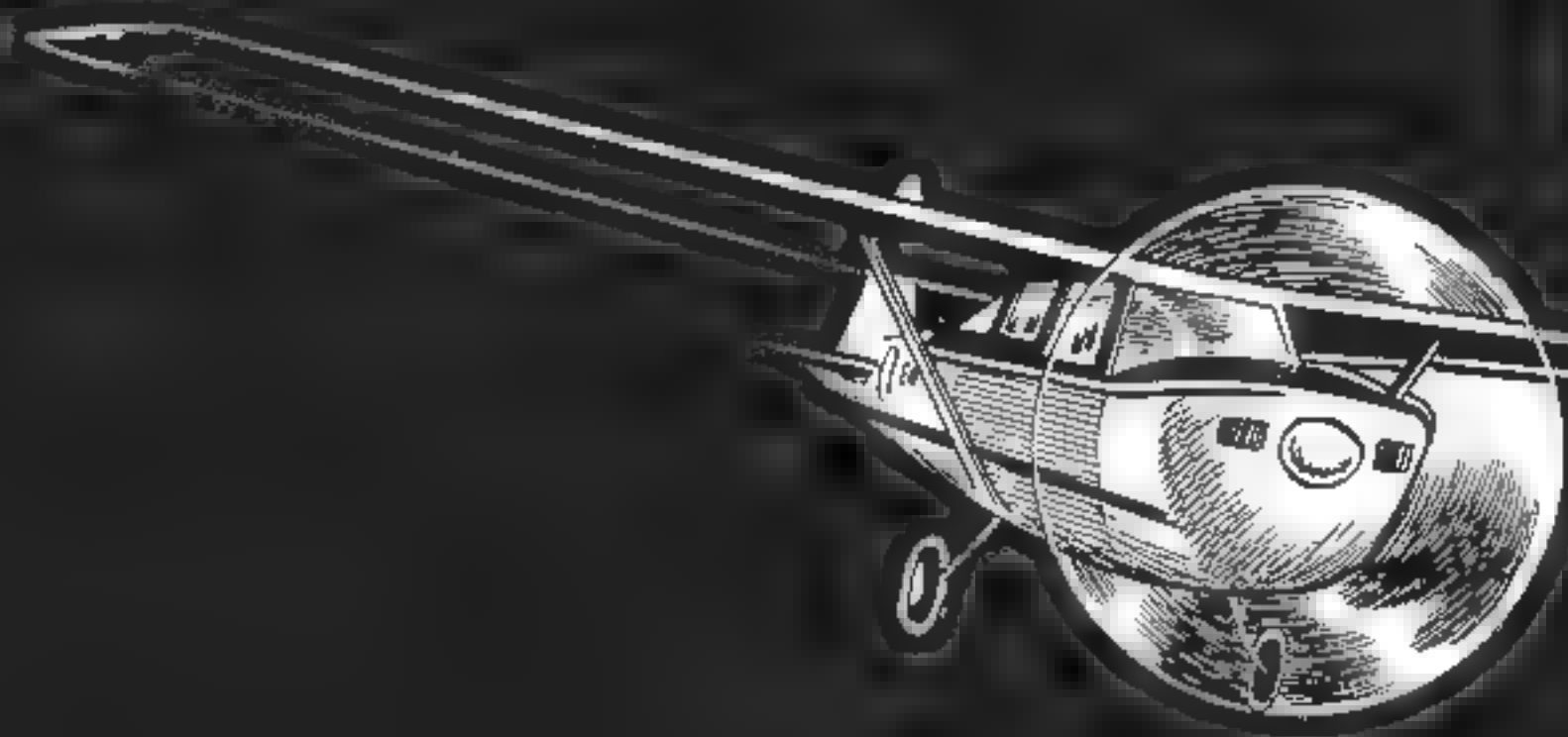


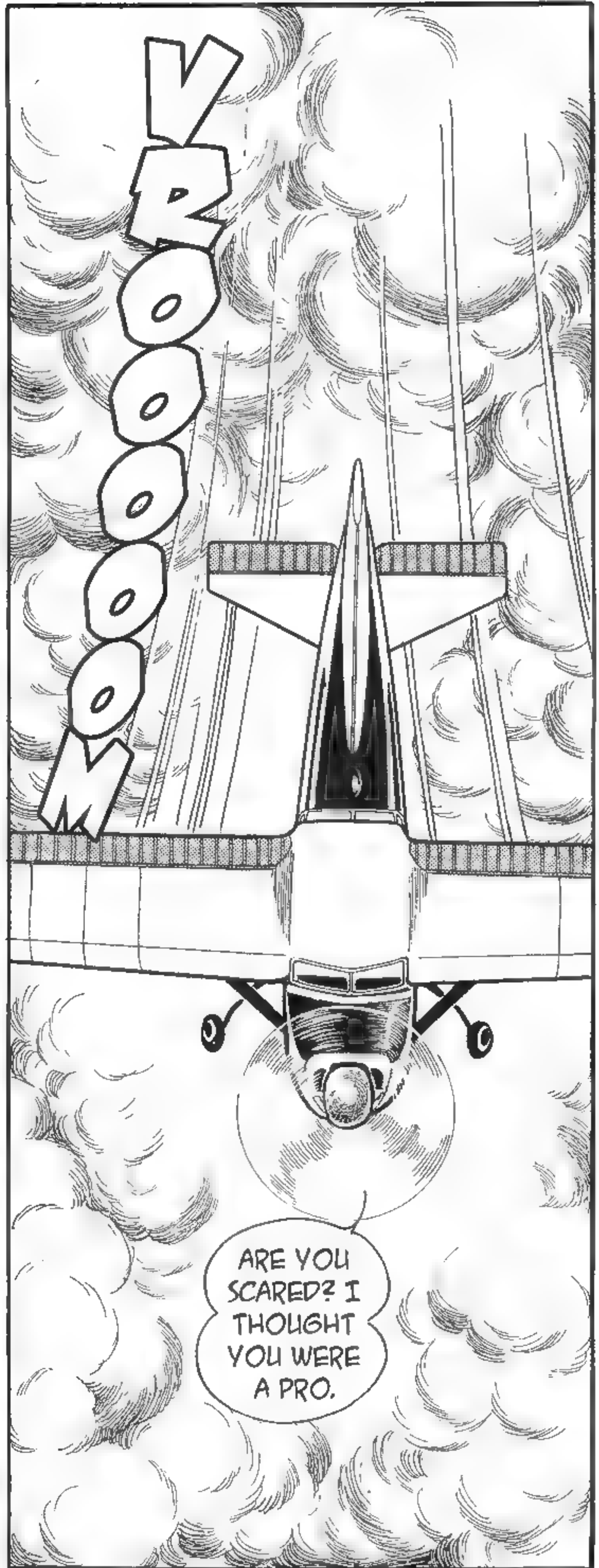


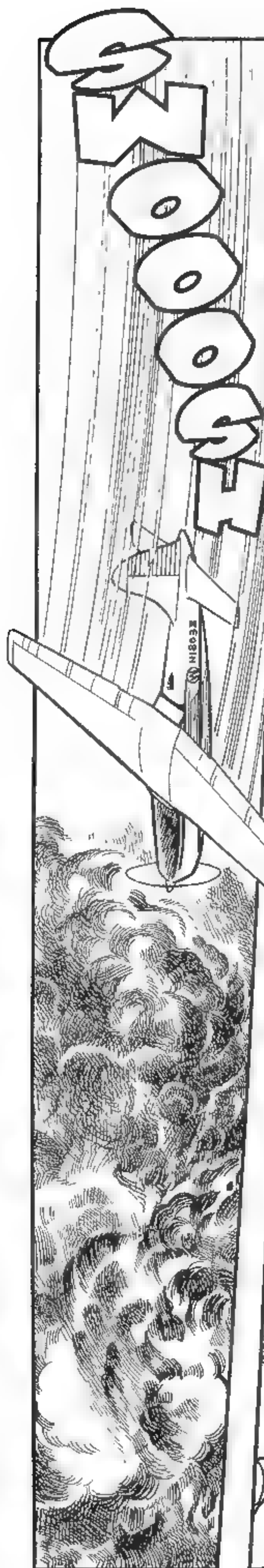
A WOMAN
PHOTO-
GRAPHER
!

WHAT'S MORE,
SHE'S THE TYPE
YOU HATE:
ARTSY-FARTSY,
STUCK UP
BECAUSE SHE
GRADUATED
FROM A
TOP SCHOOL,
AND SELF-
CENTERED!

BUT WORK
IS WORK,
SO YOU
HAVE TO
PUT UP
WITH HER.







RUNNING
AWAY?
HEE
HEE...



WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?



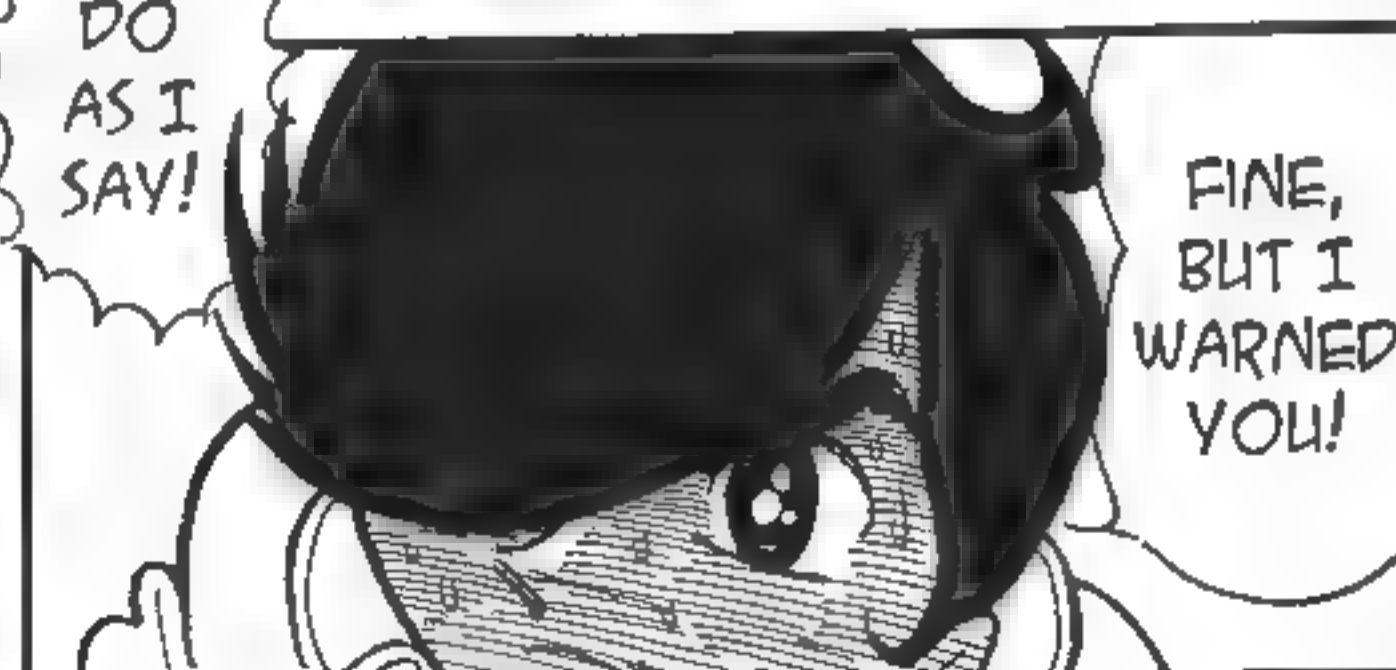
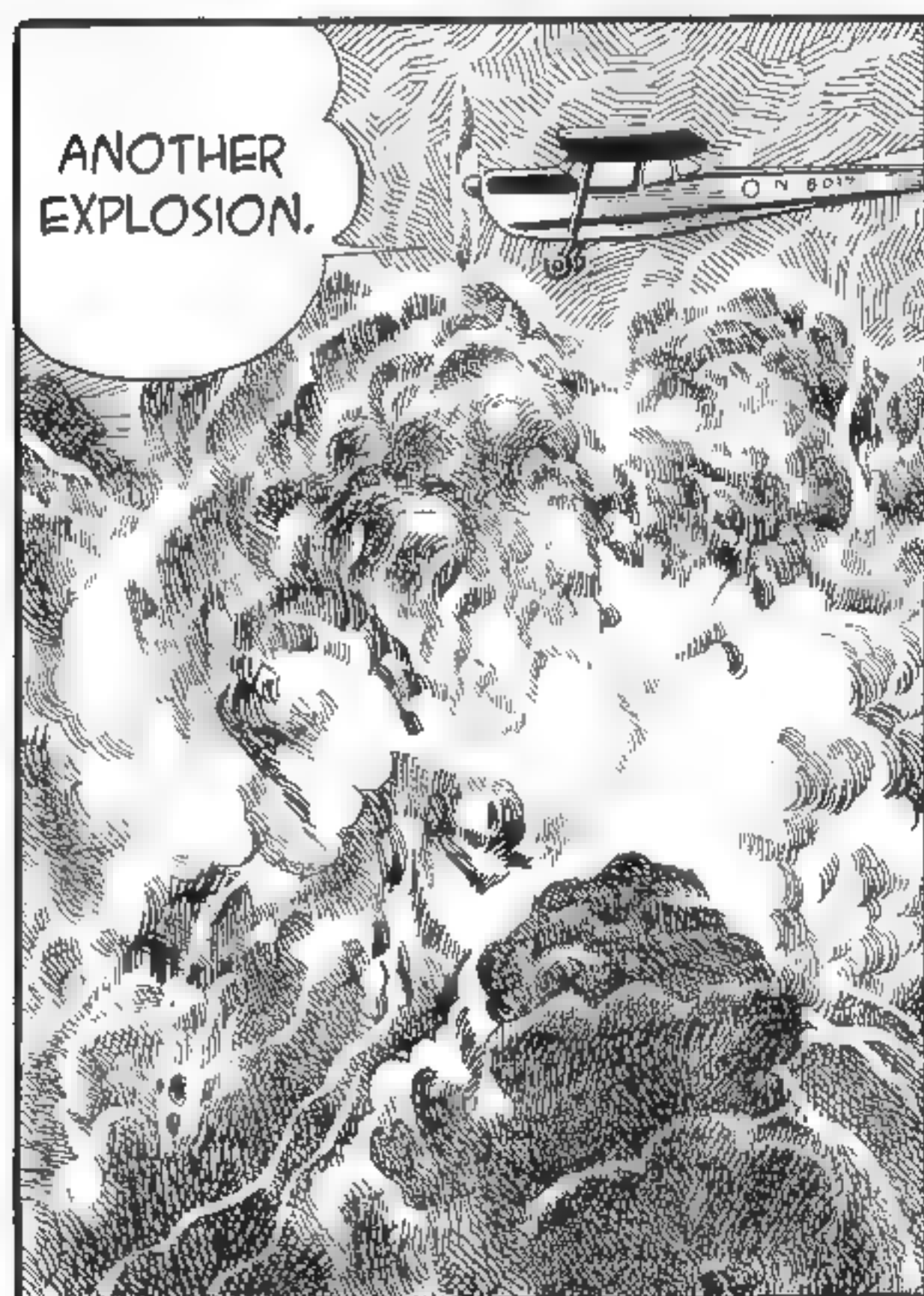
AFRAID
TO
DIE?

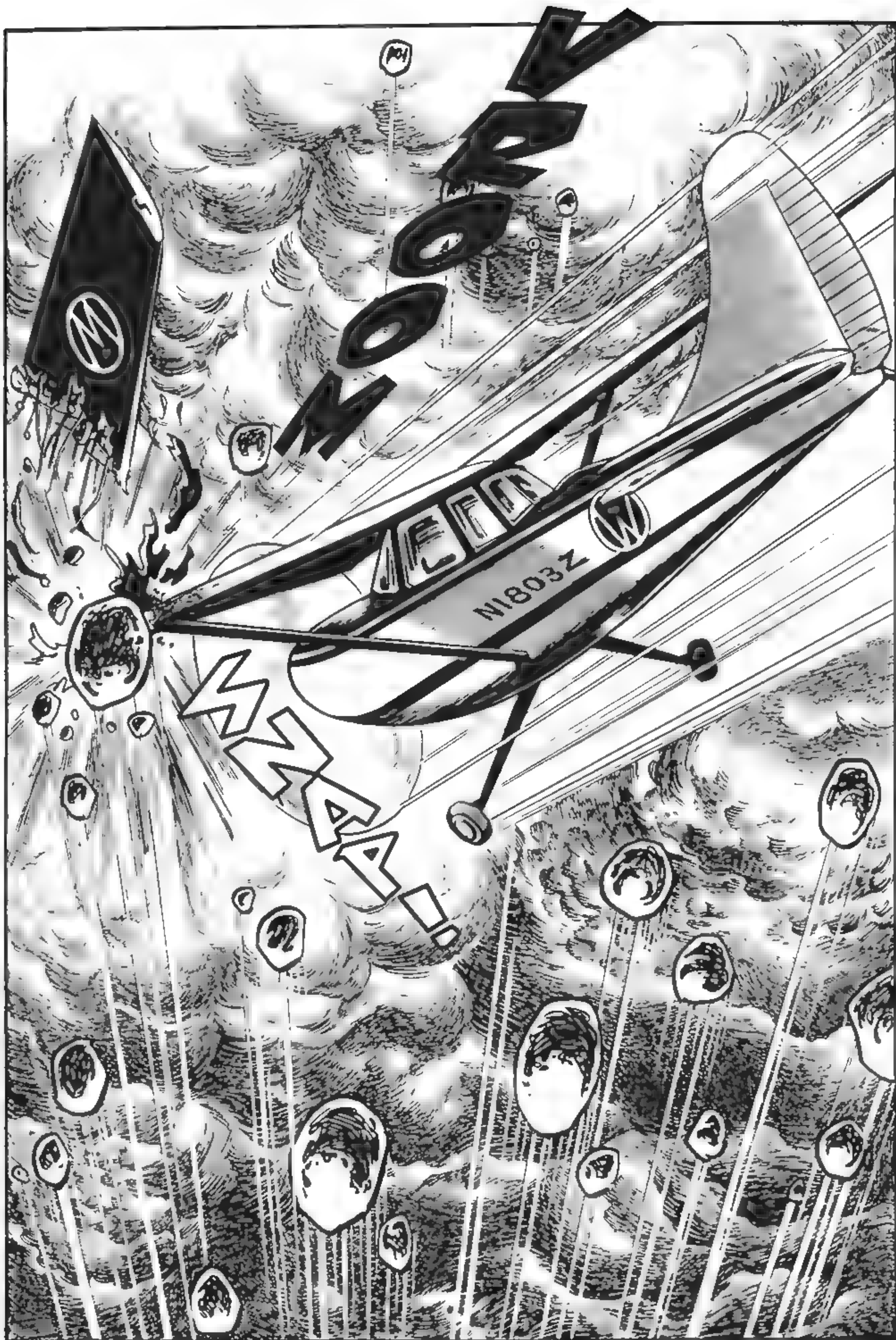


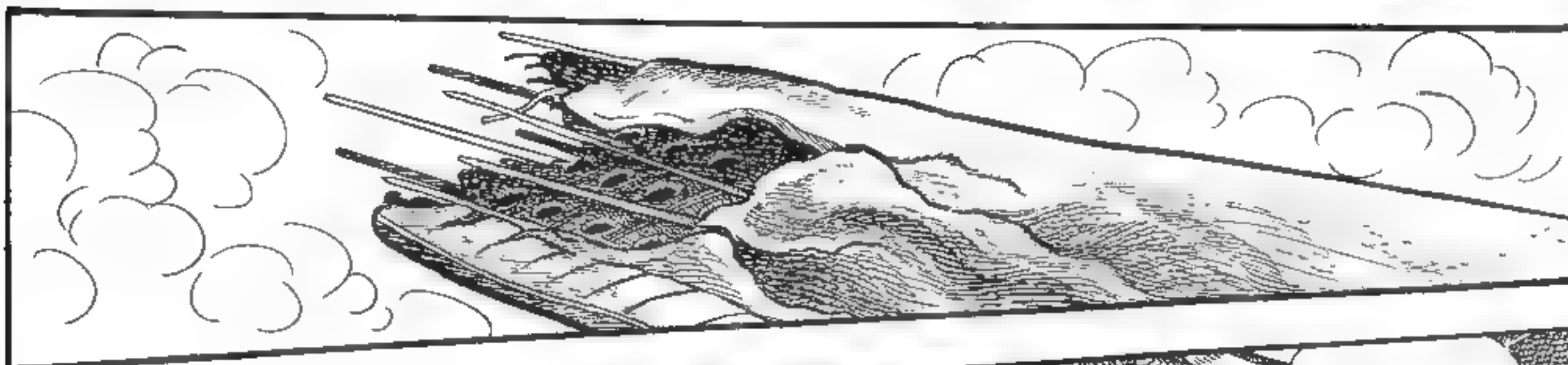
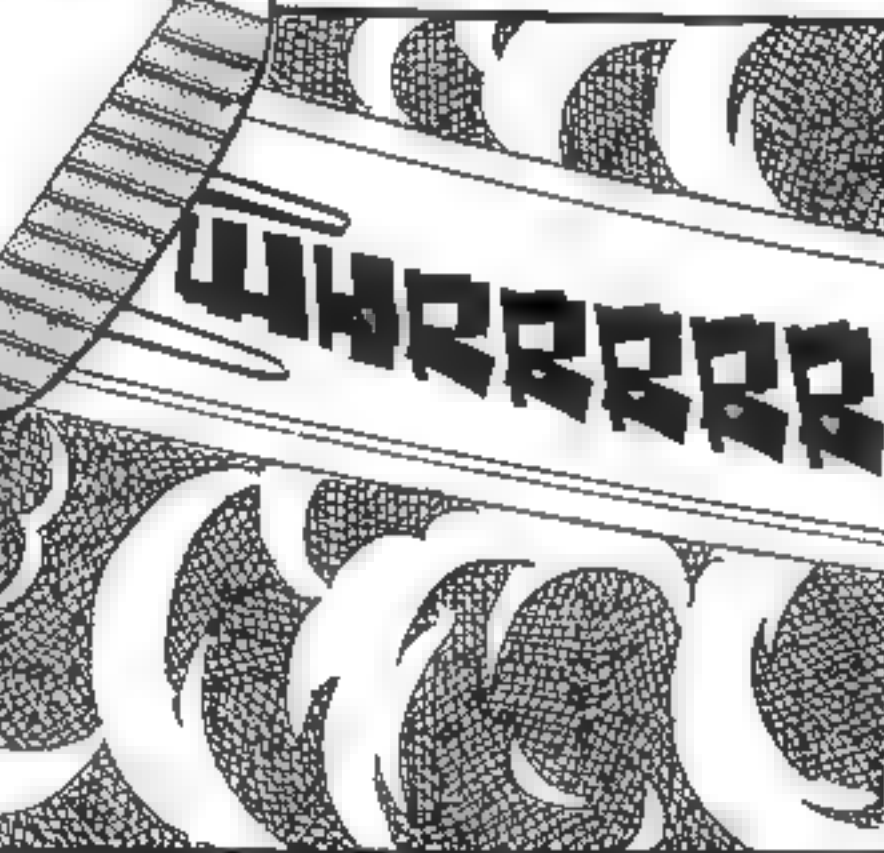
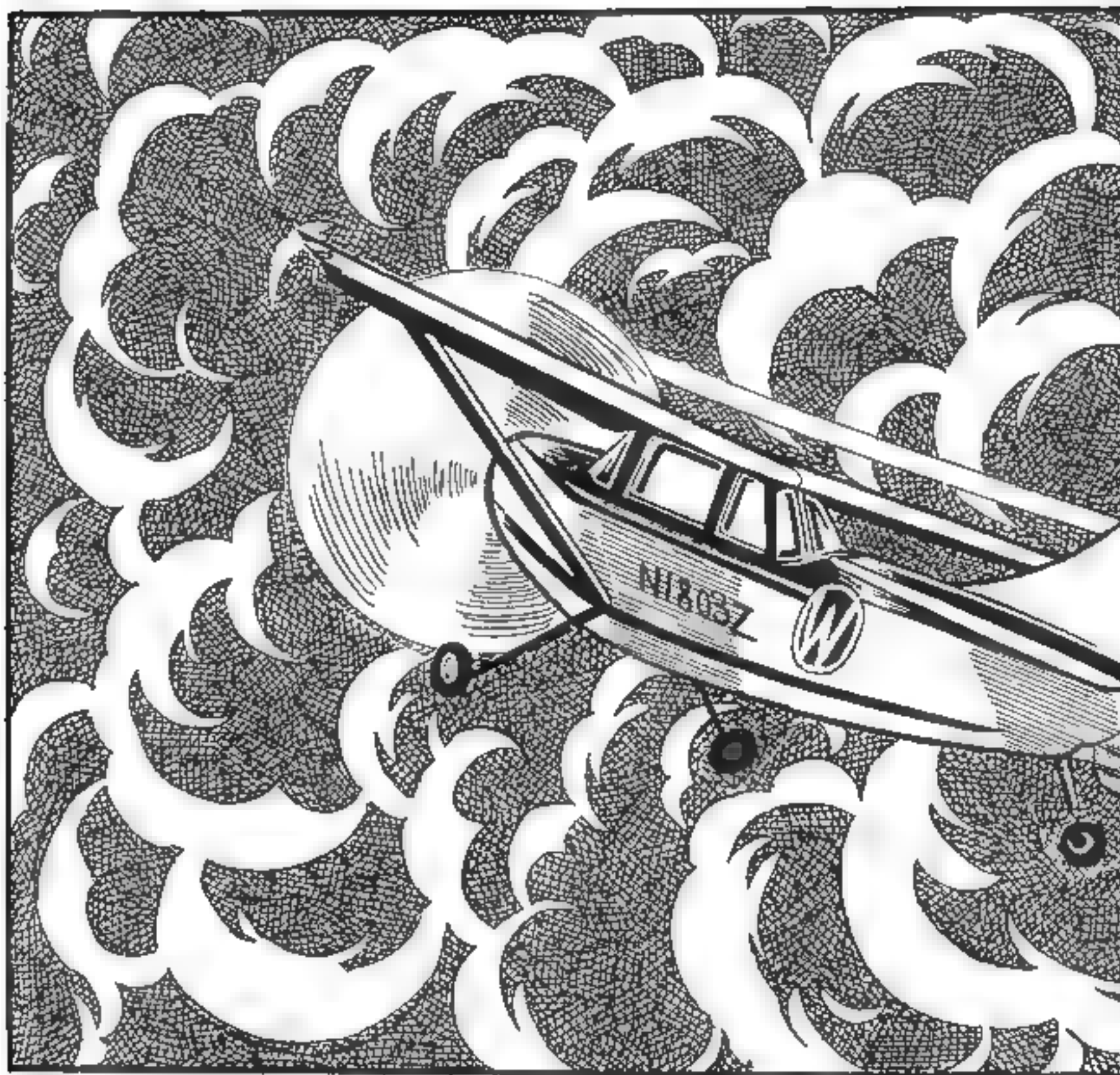
I'M
NOT HERE
TO DO
AEROBATICS.



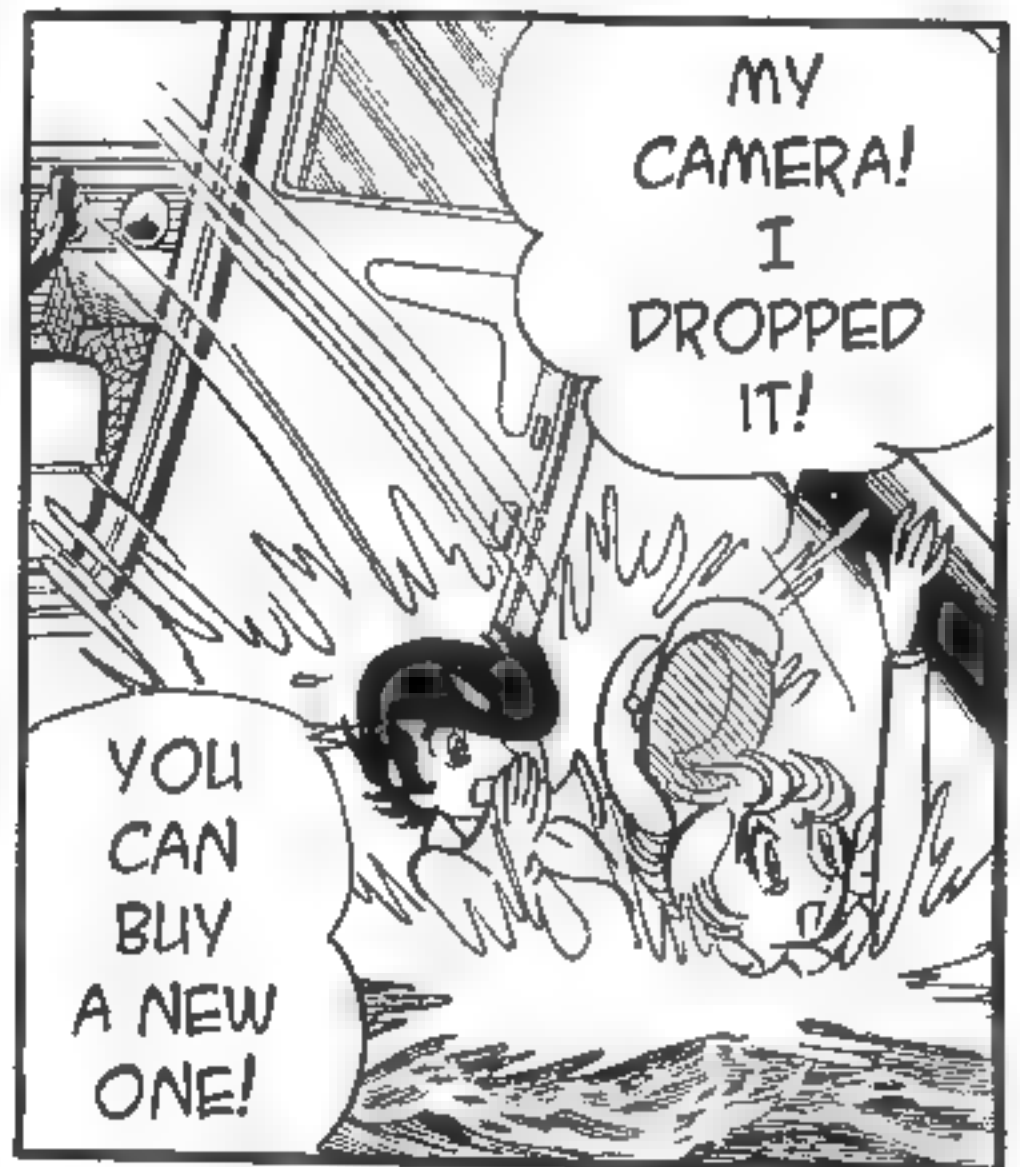
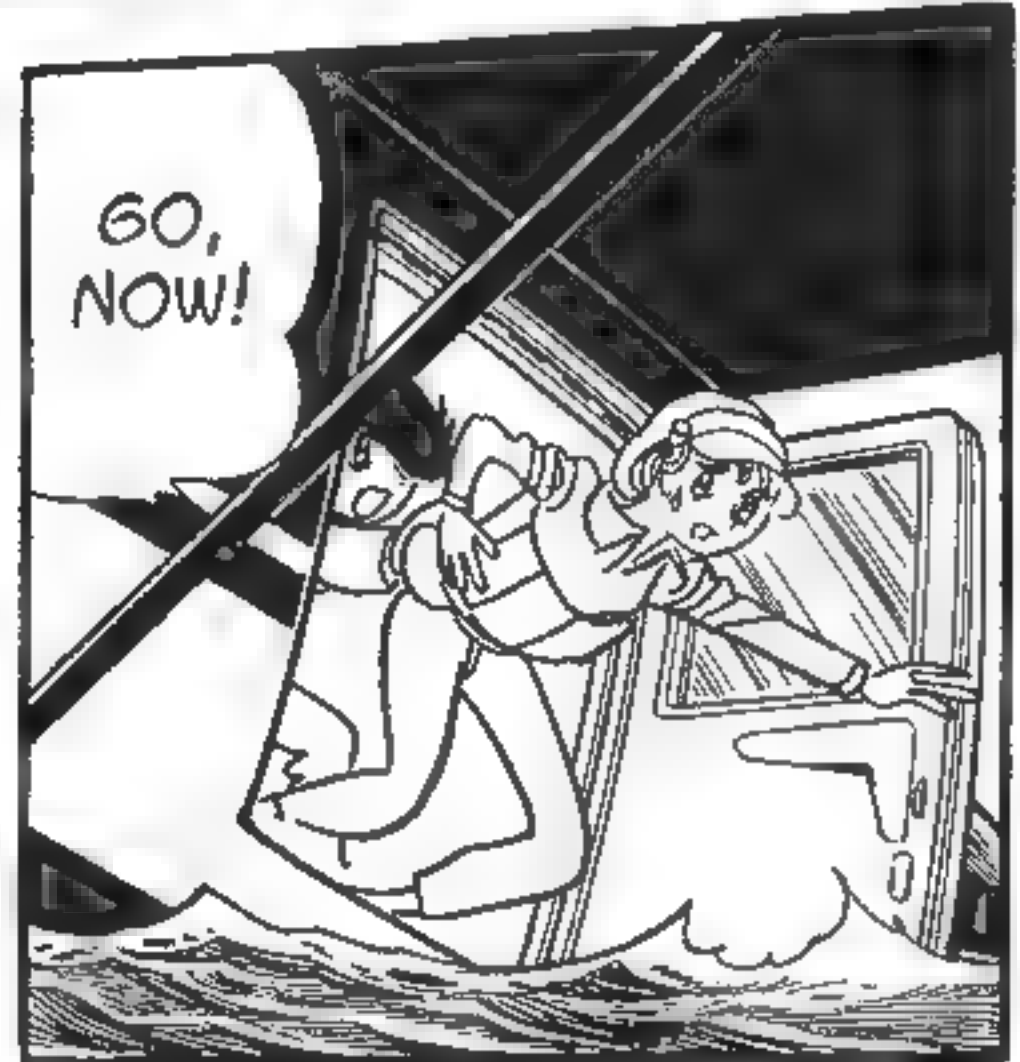
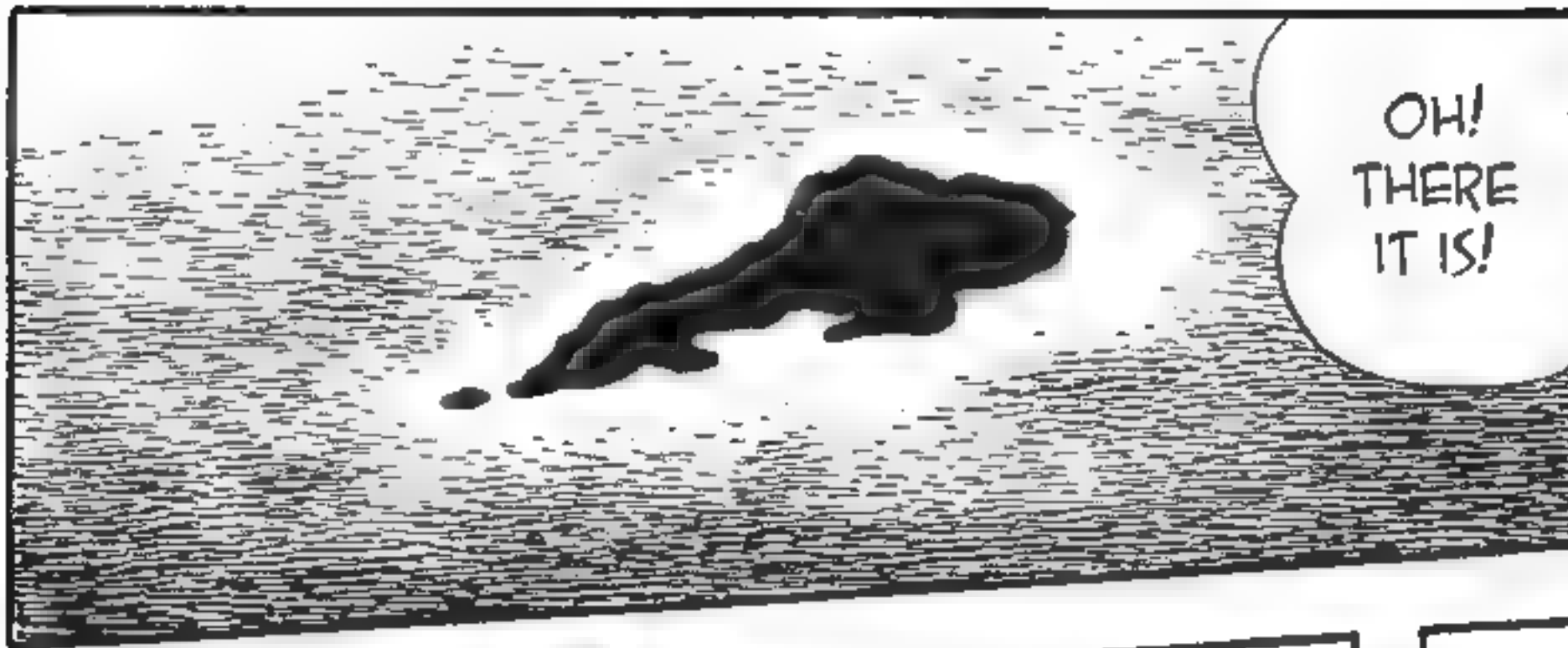
I'M PAYING
YOU
100,000
YEN!
YOU KNOW
I'M NOT
HERE
TO TAKE
JUST ANY
OLD PHOTOS.

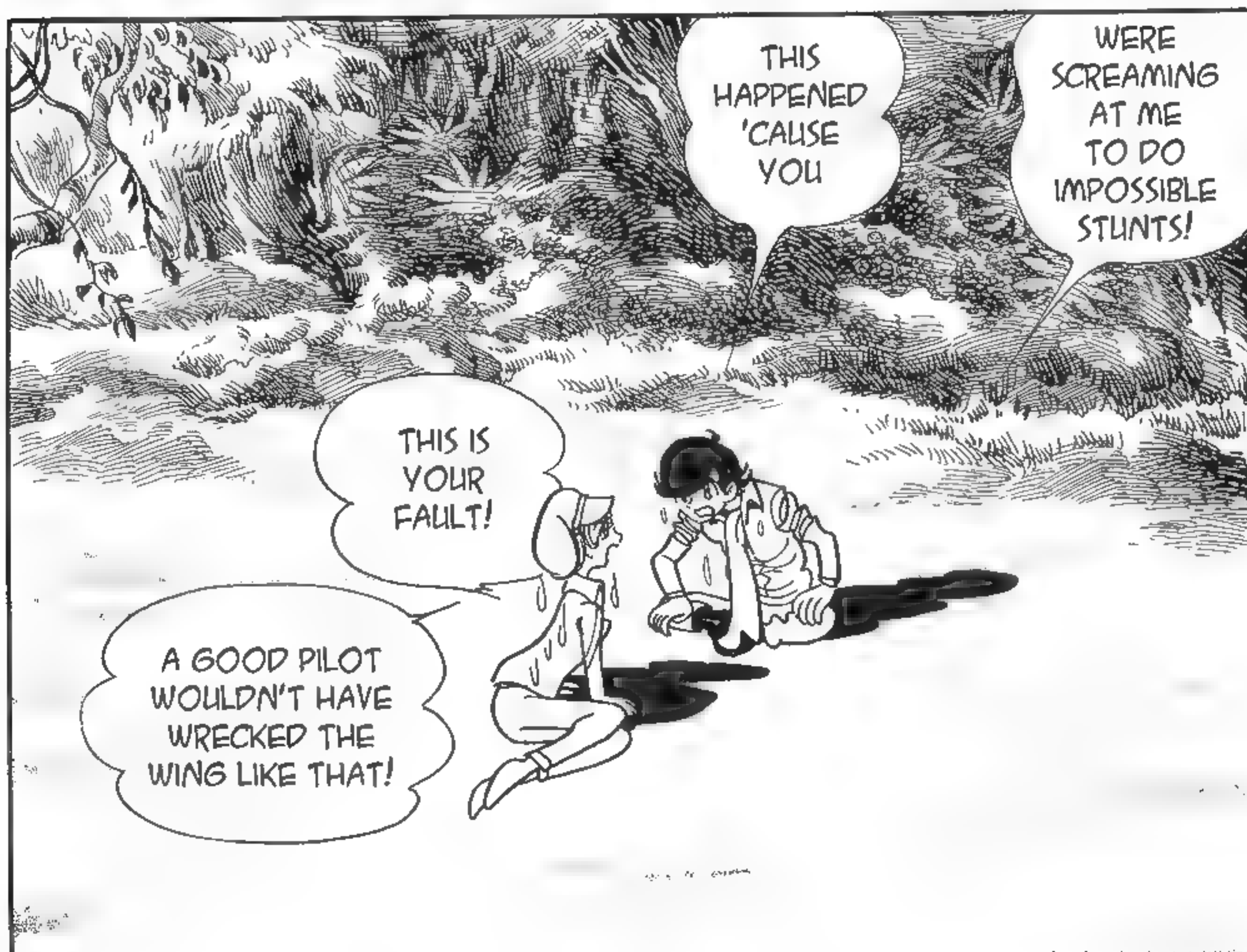
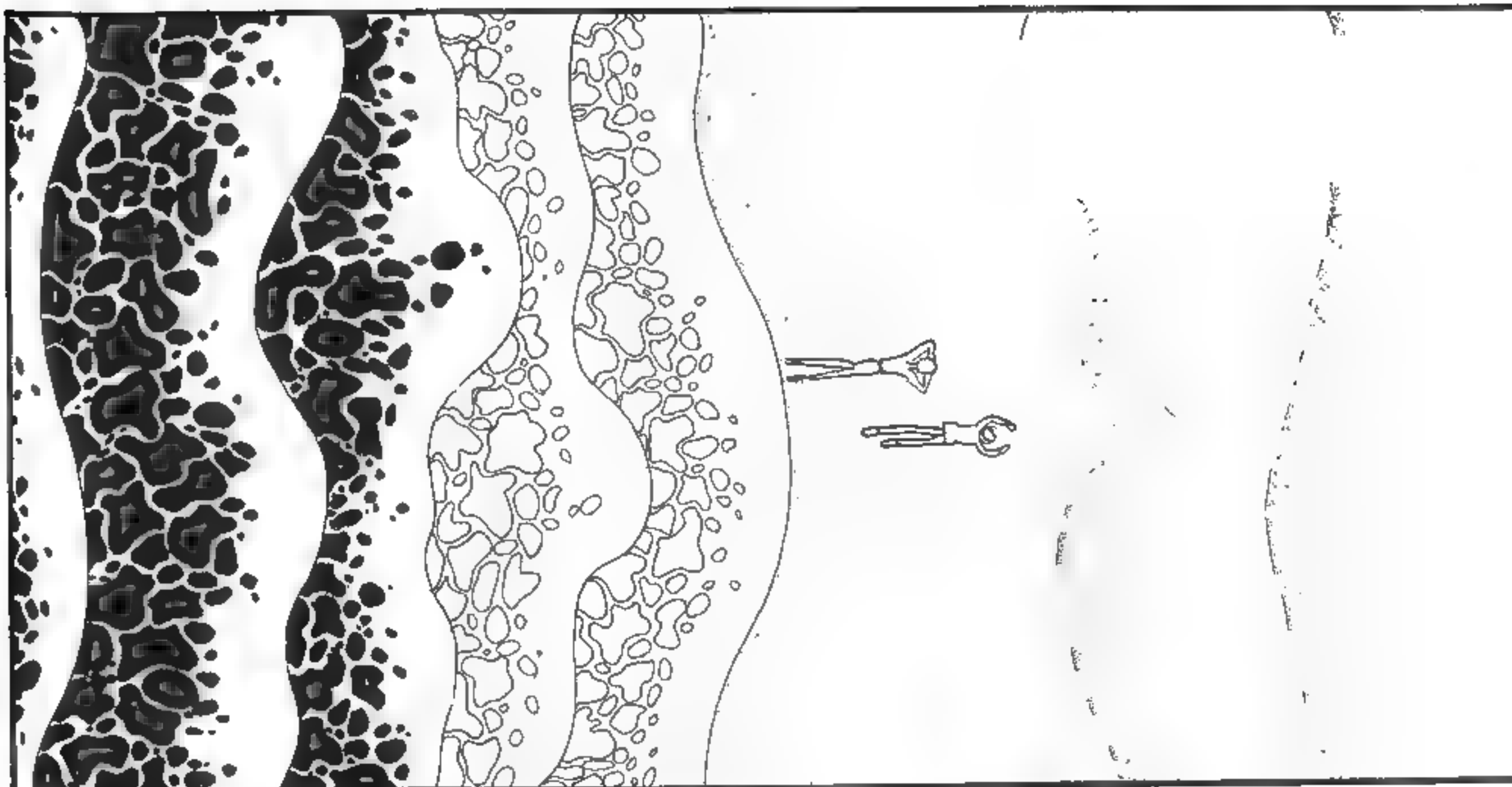


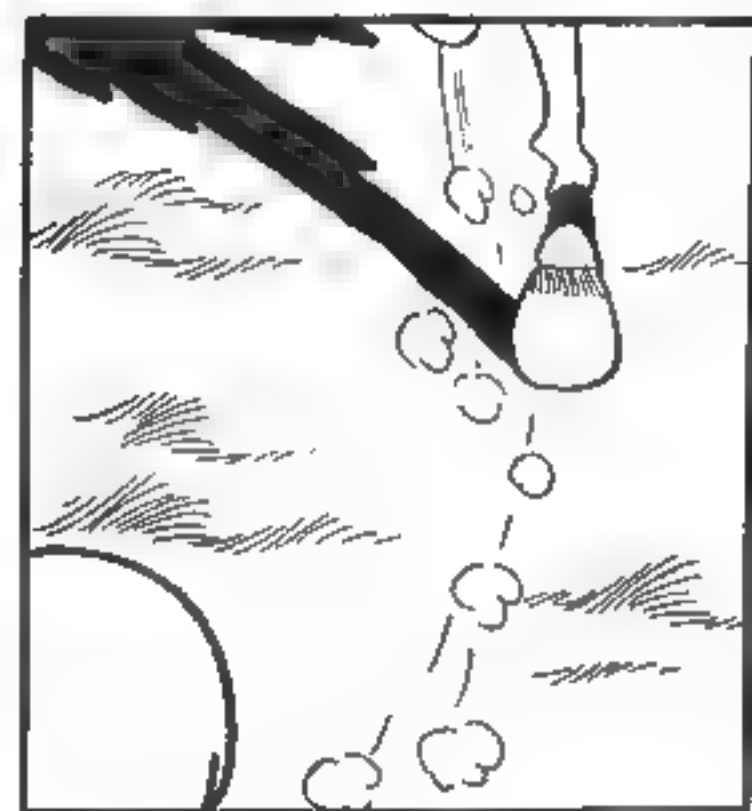
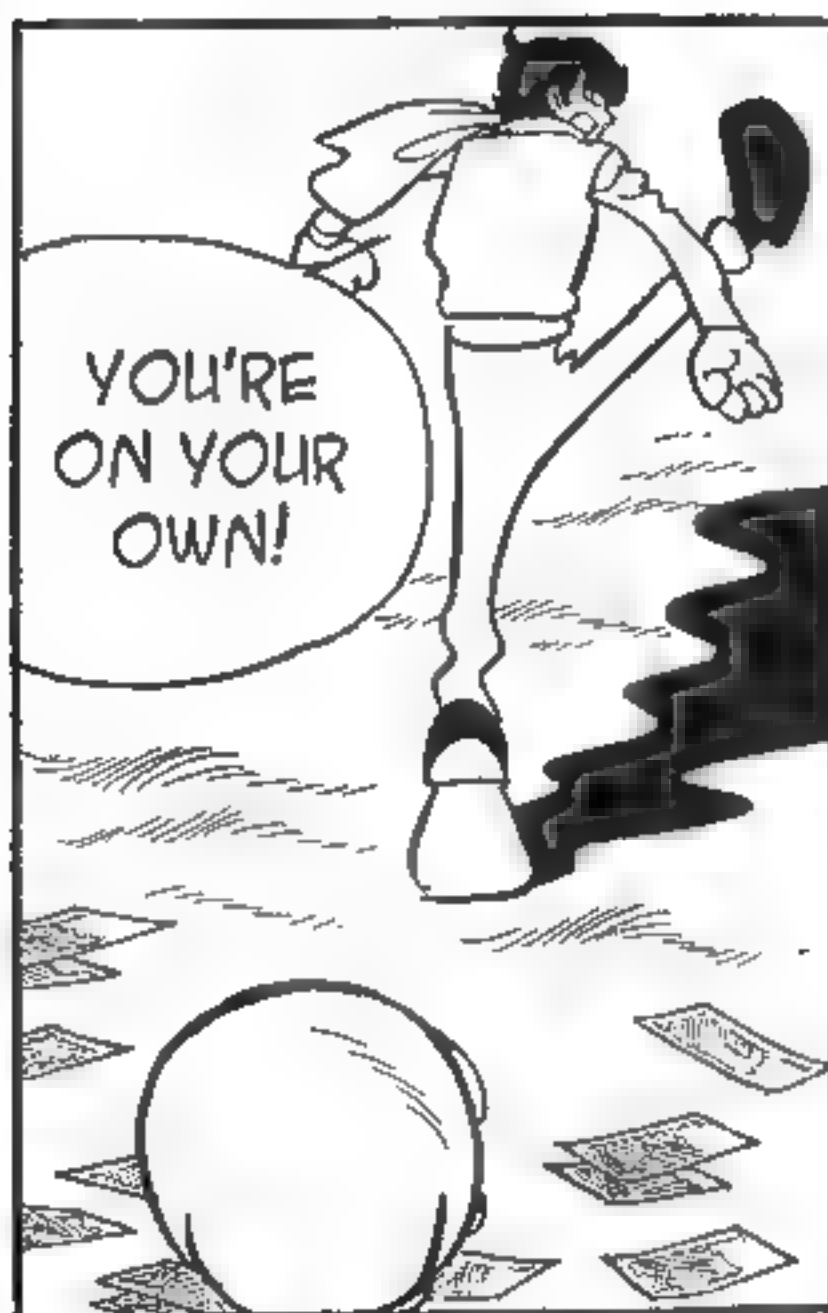
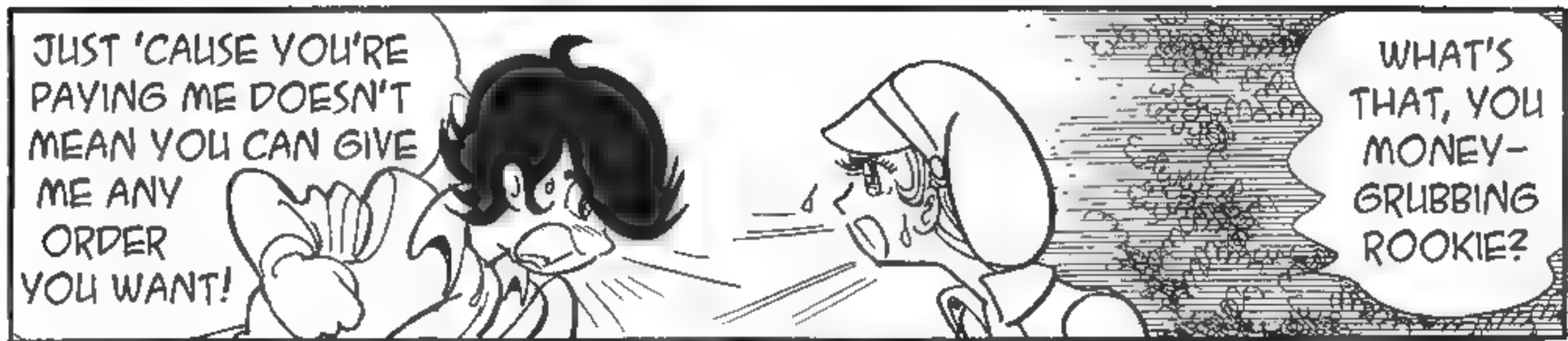


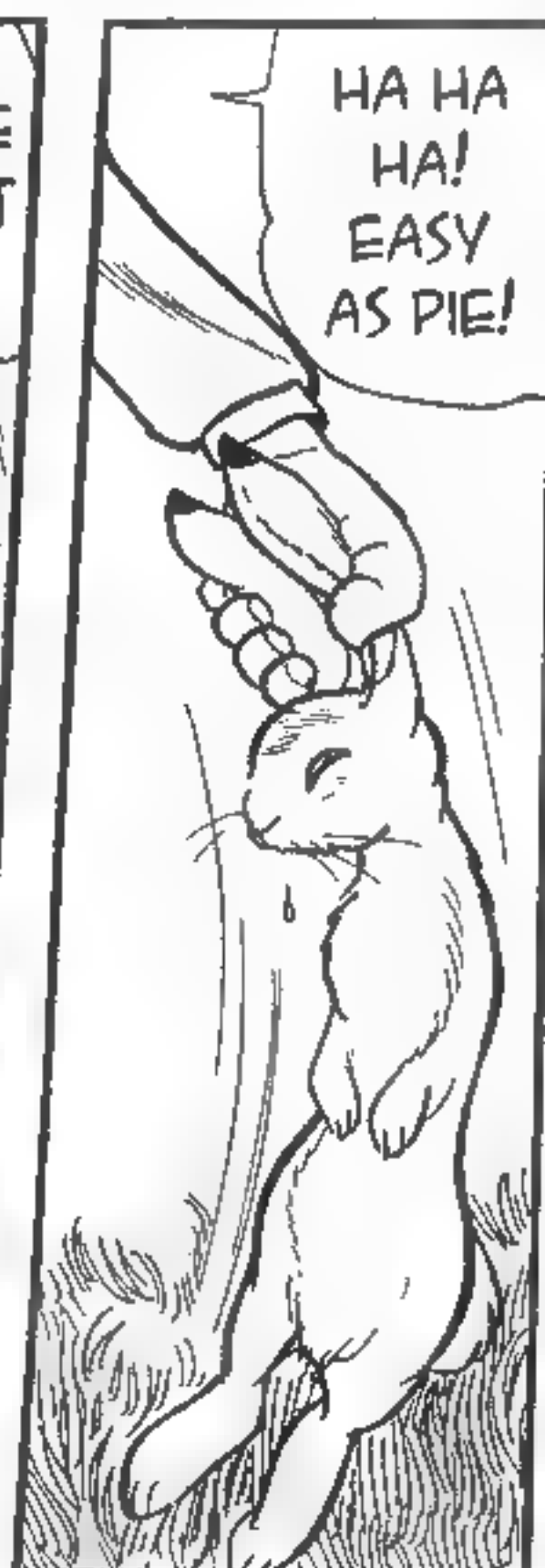
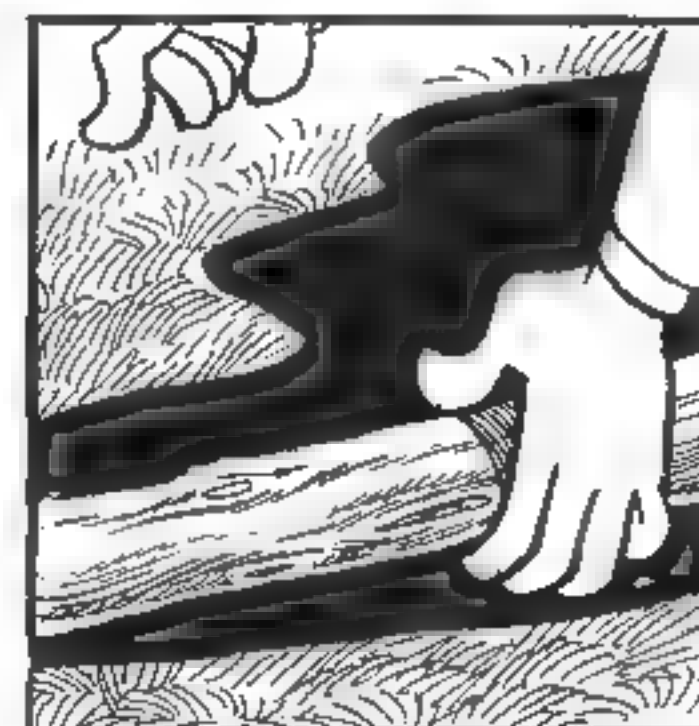
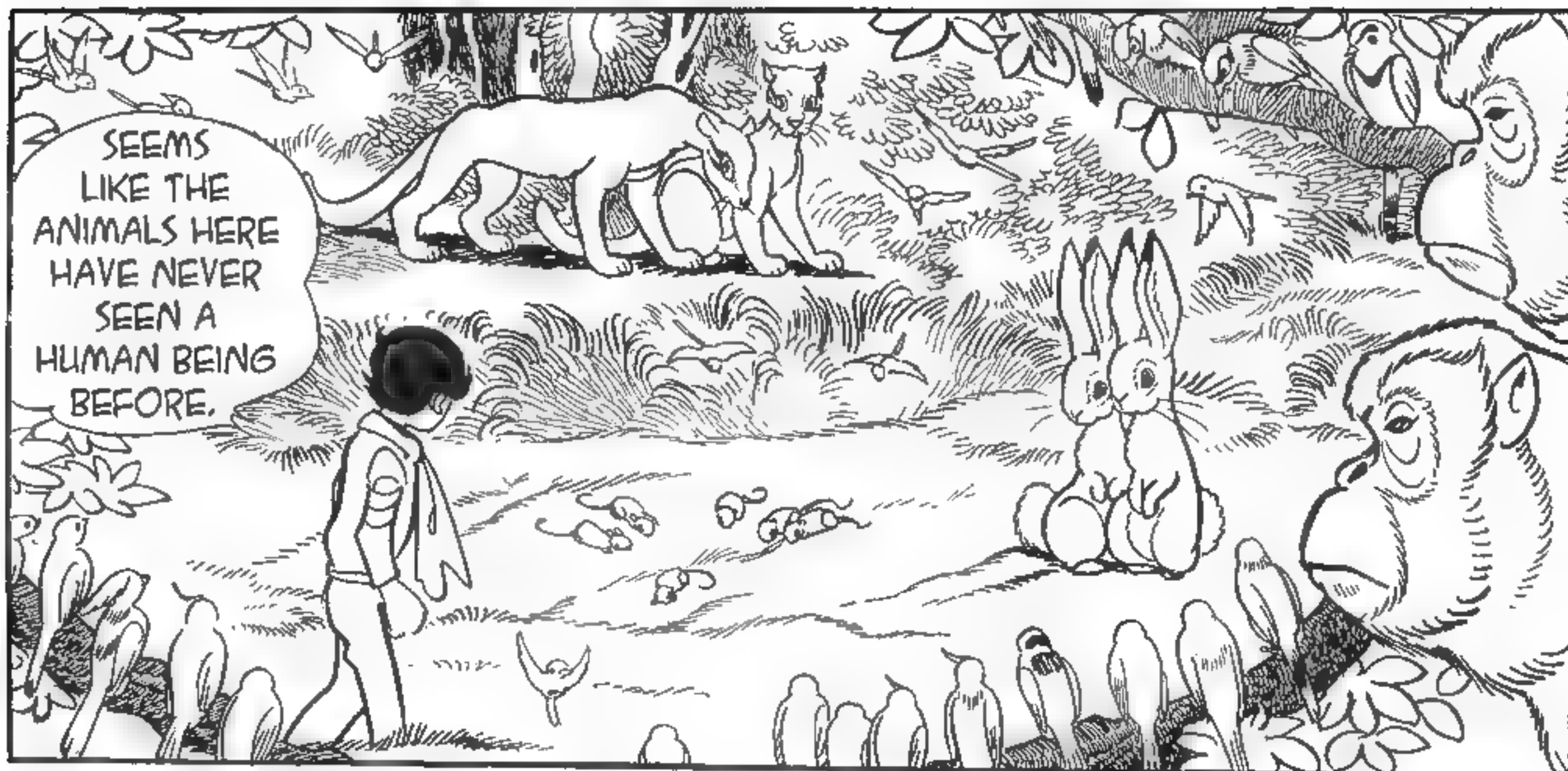


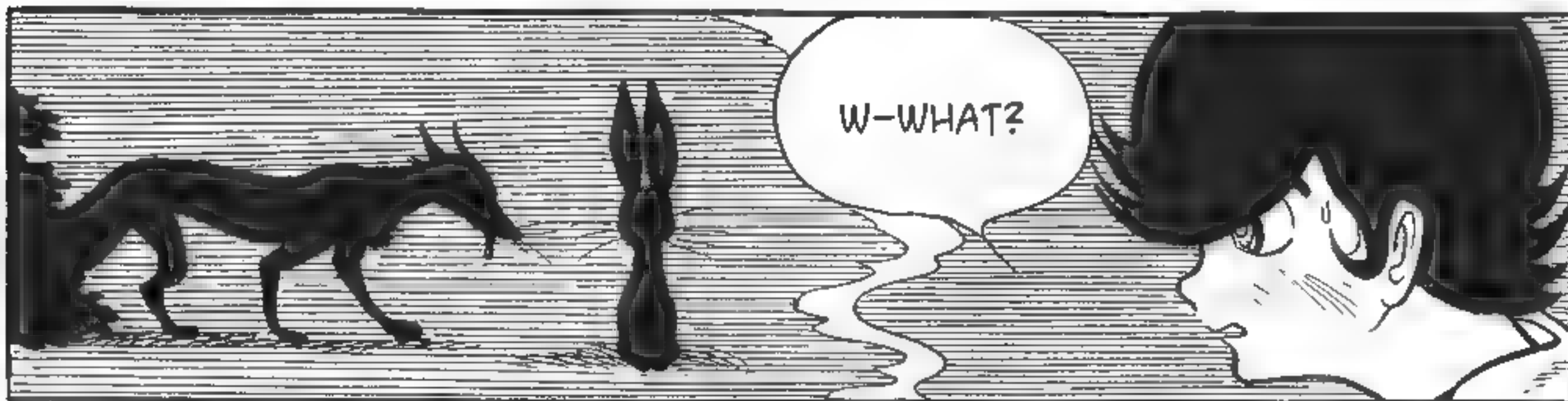
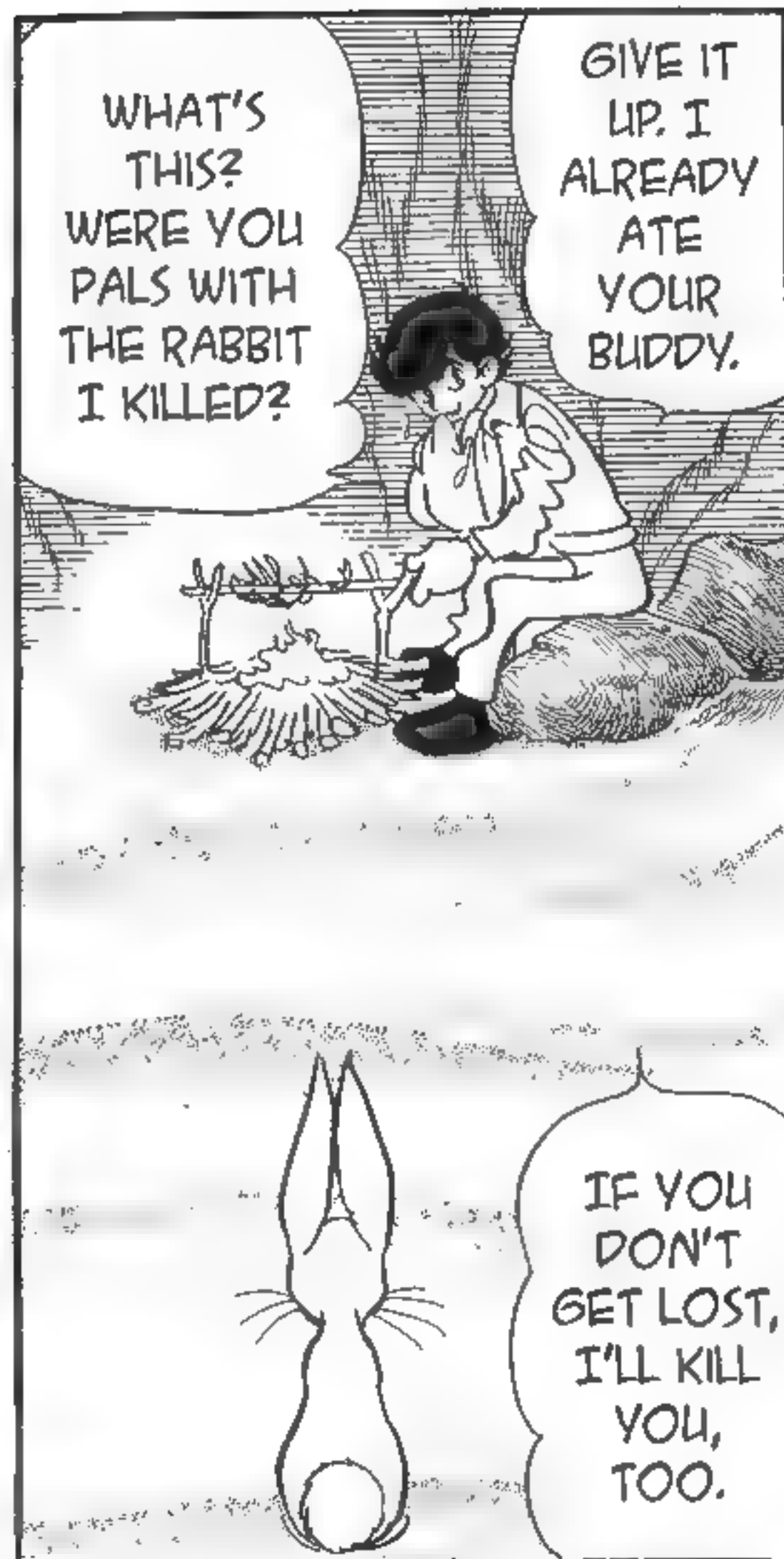
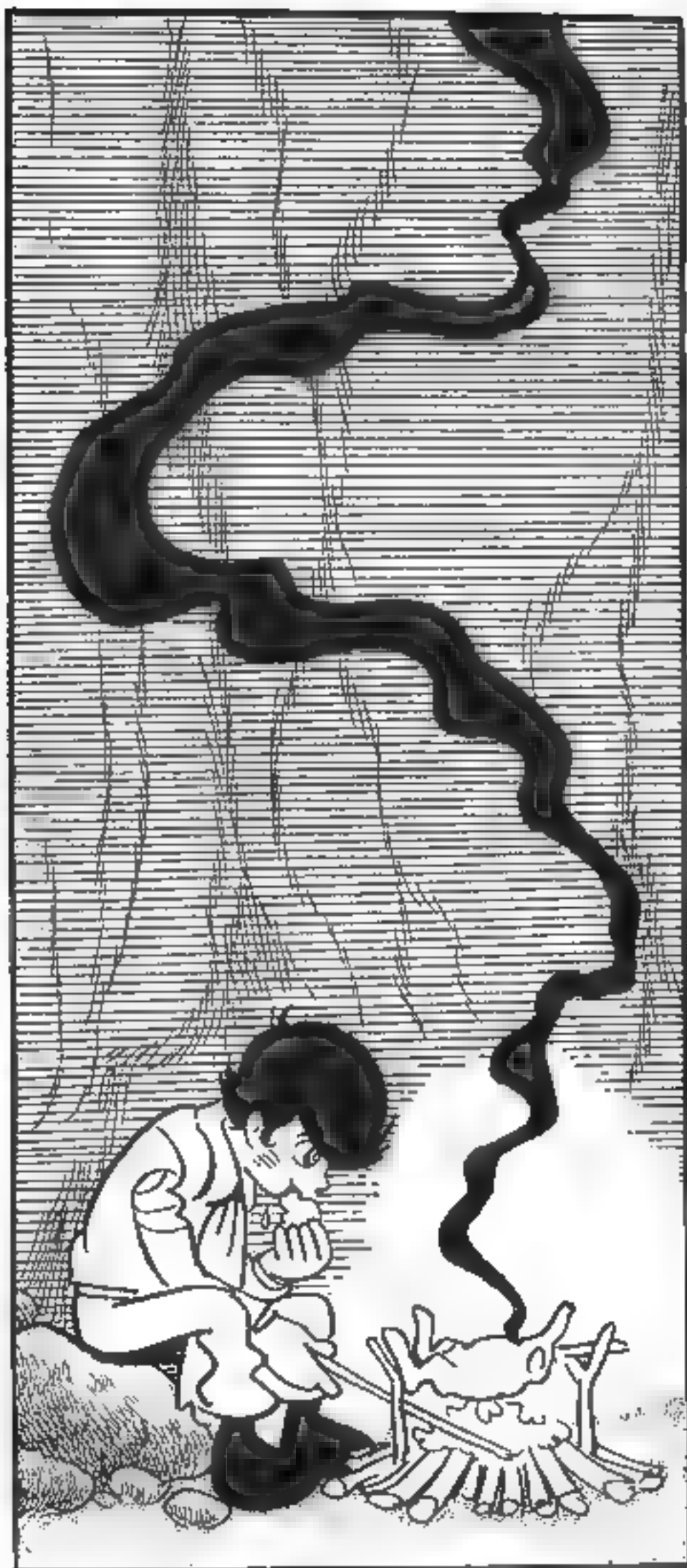


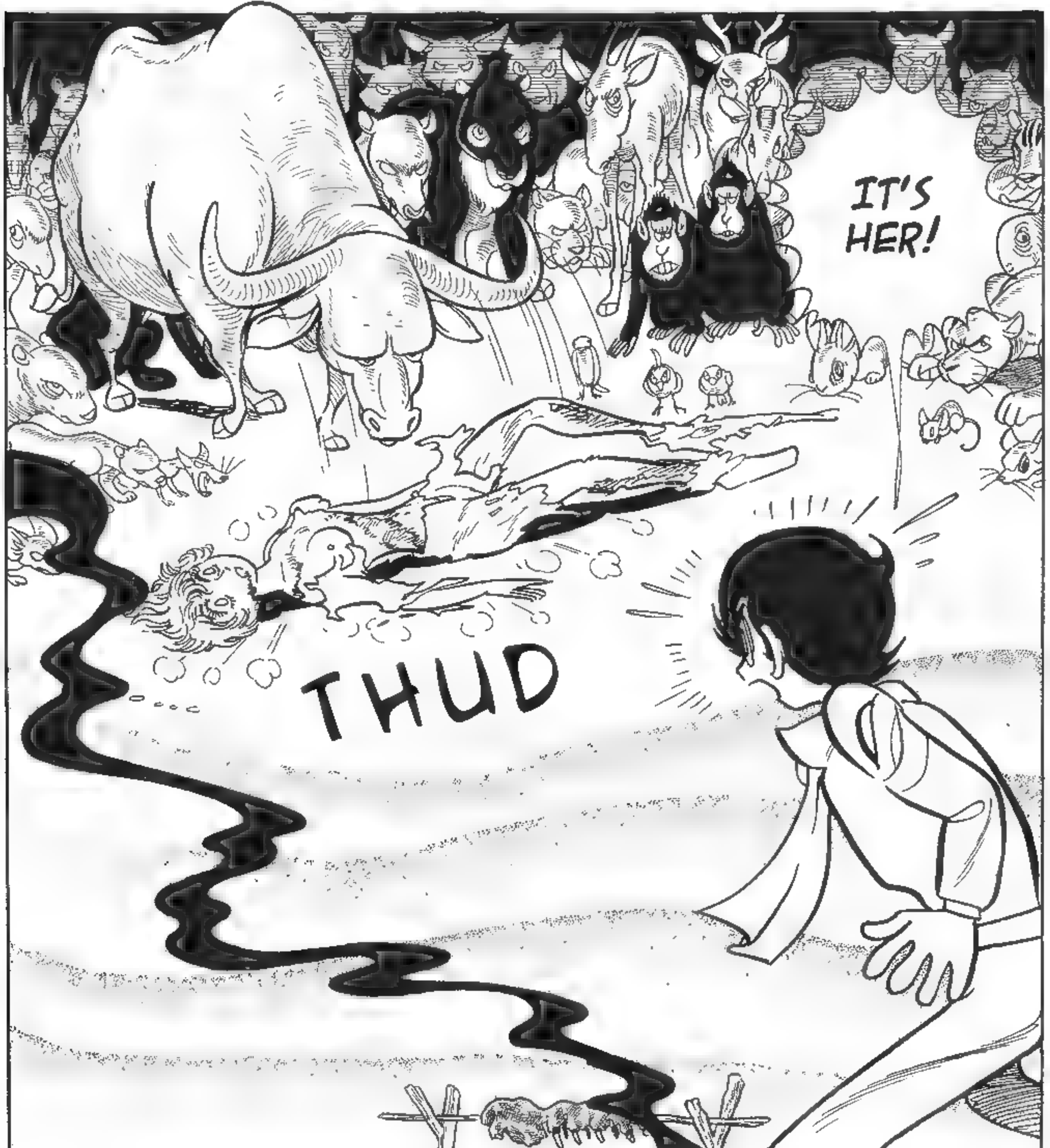




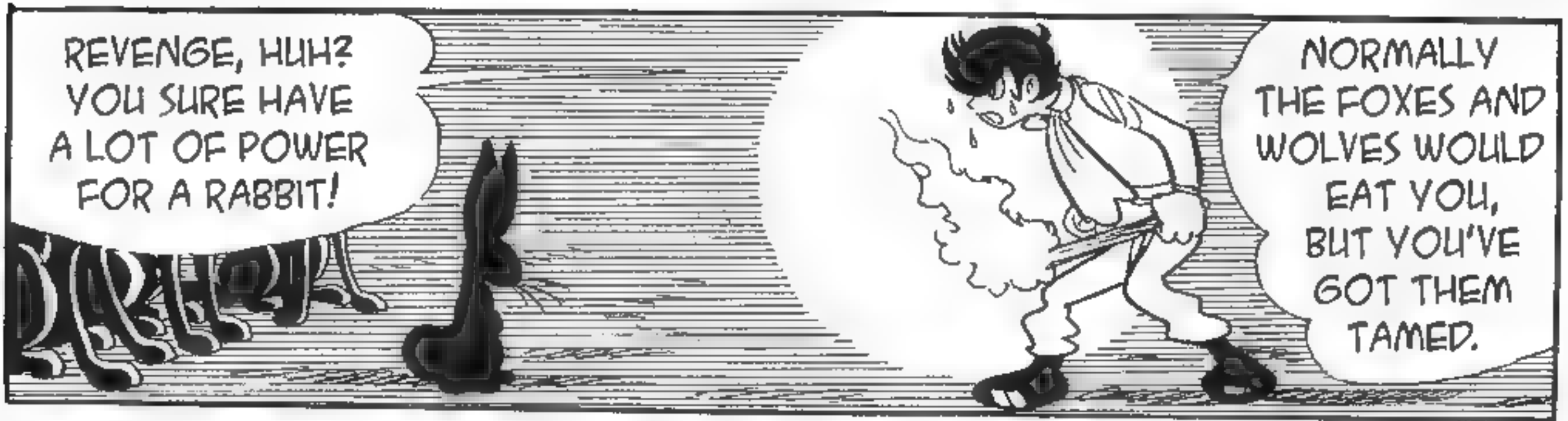
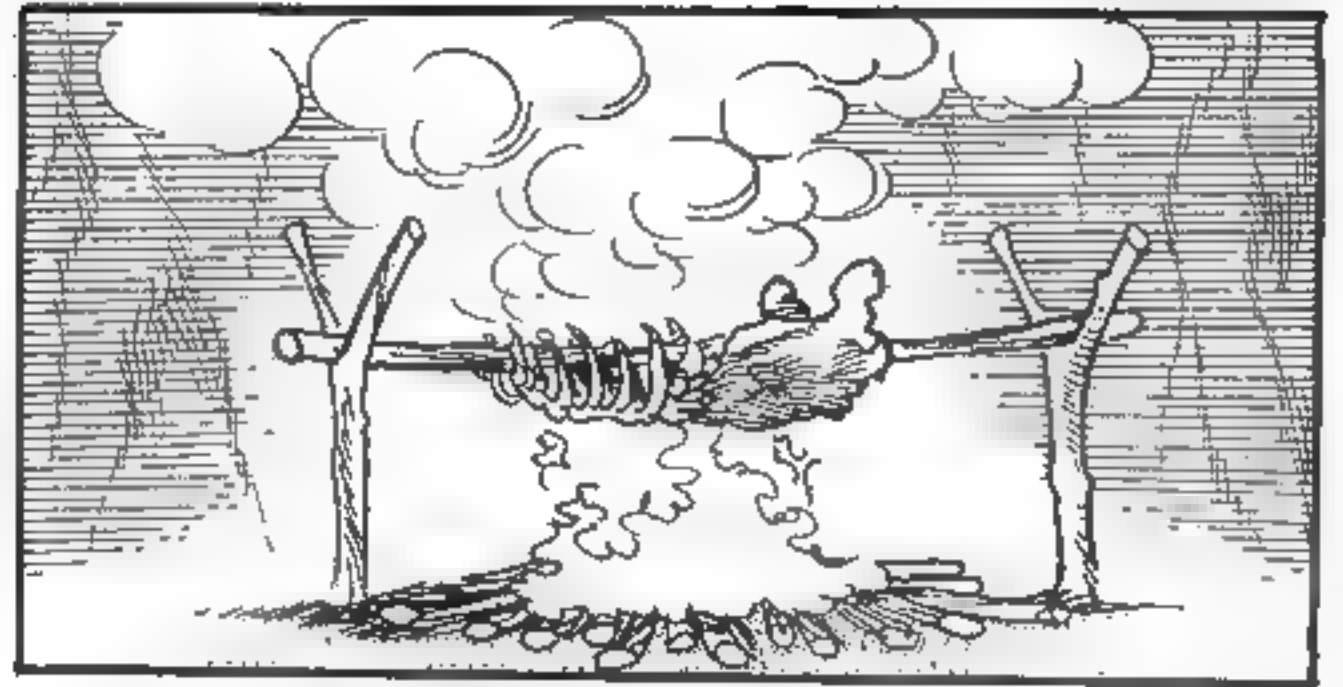
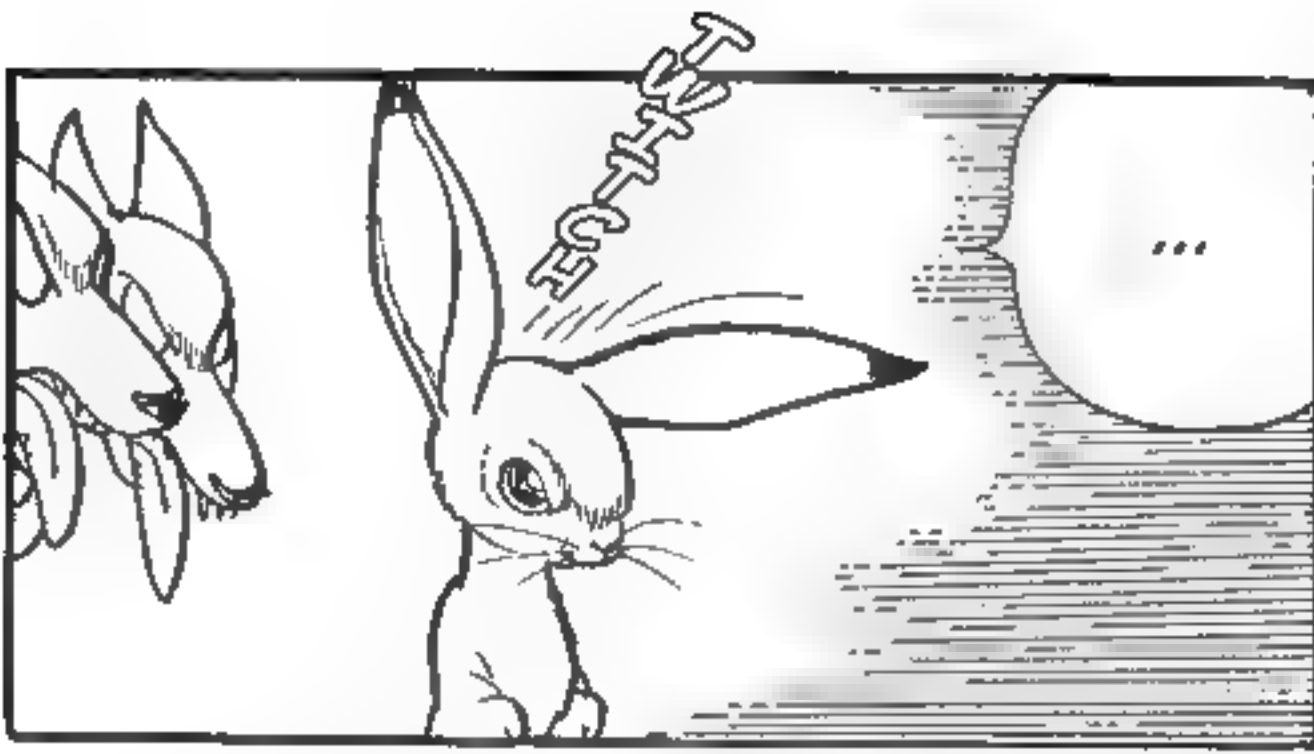




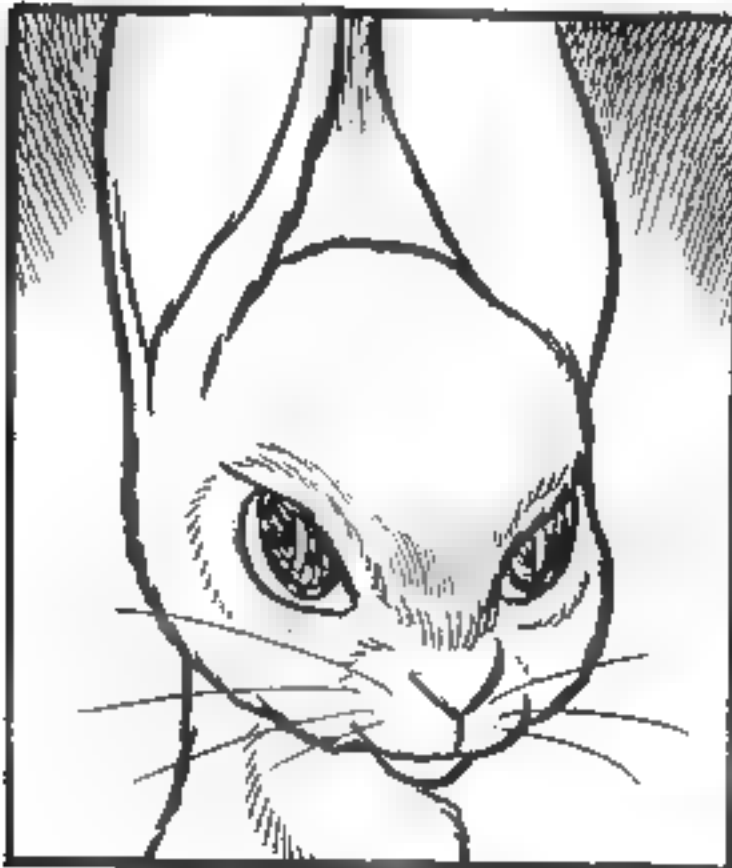






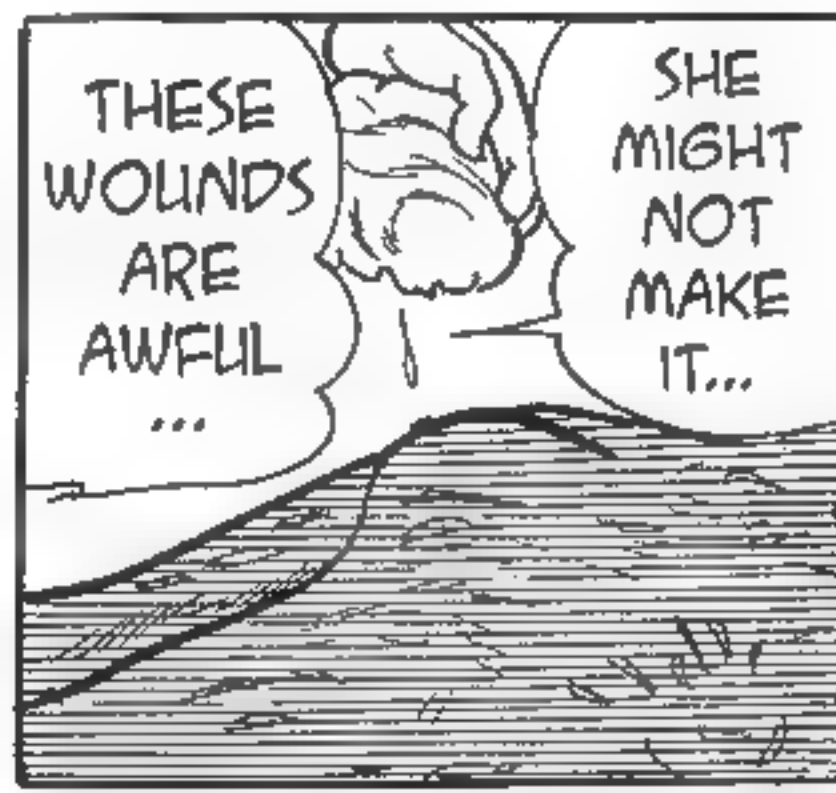
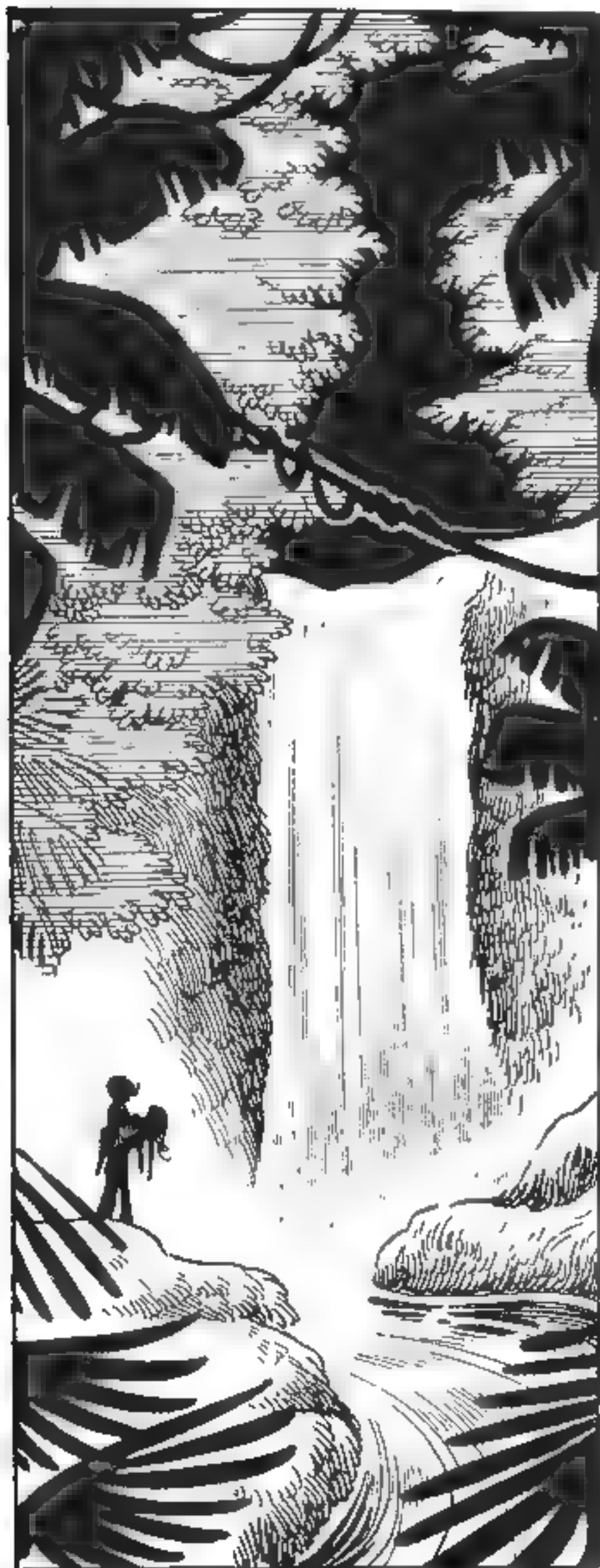


NORMALLY THE FOXES AND WOLVES WOULD EAT YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT THEM TAMED.



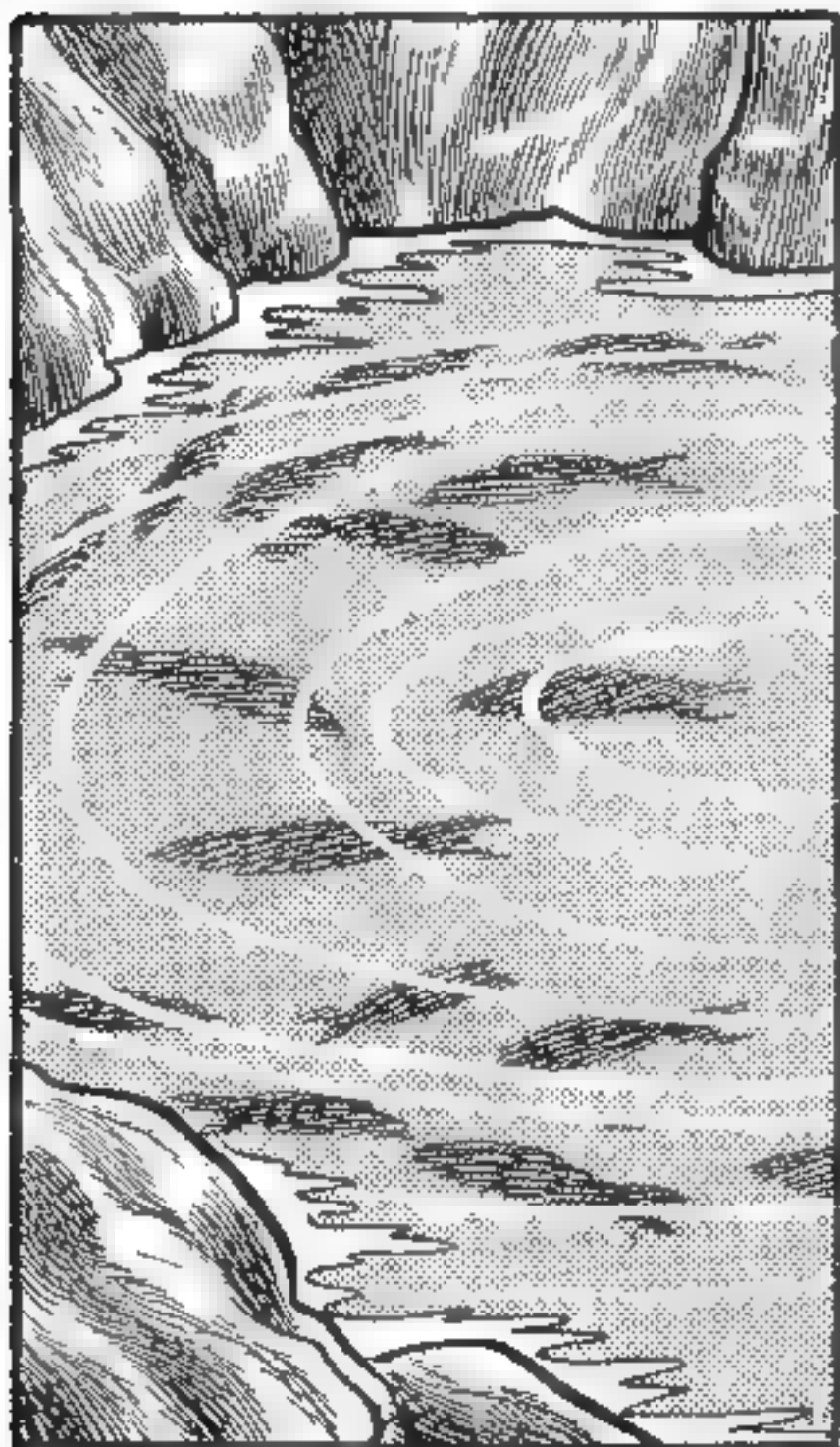
I WON'T EAT ANY MORE RABBITS. PLEASE GO.

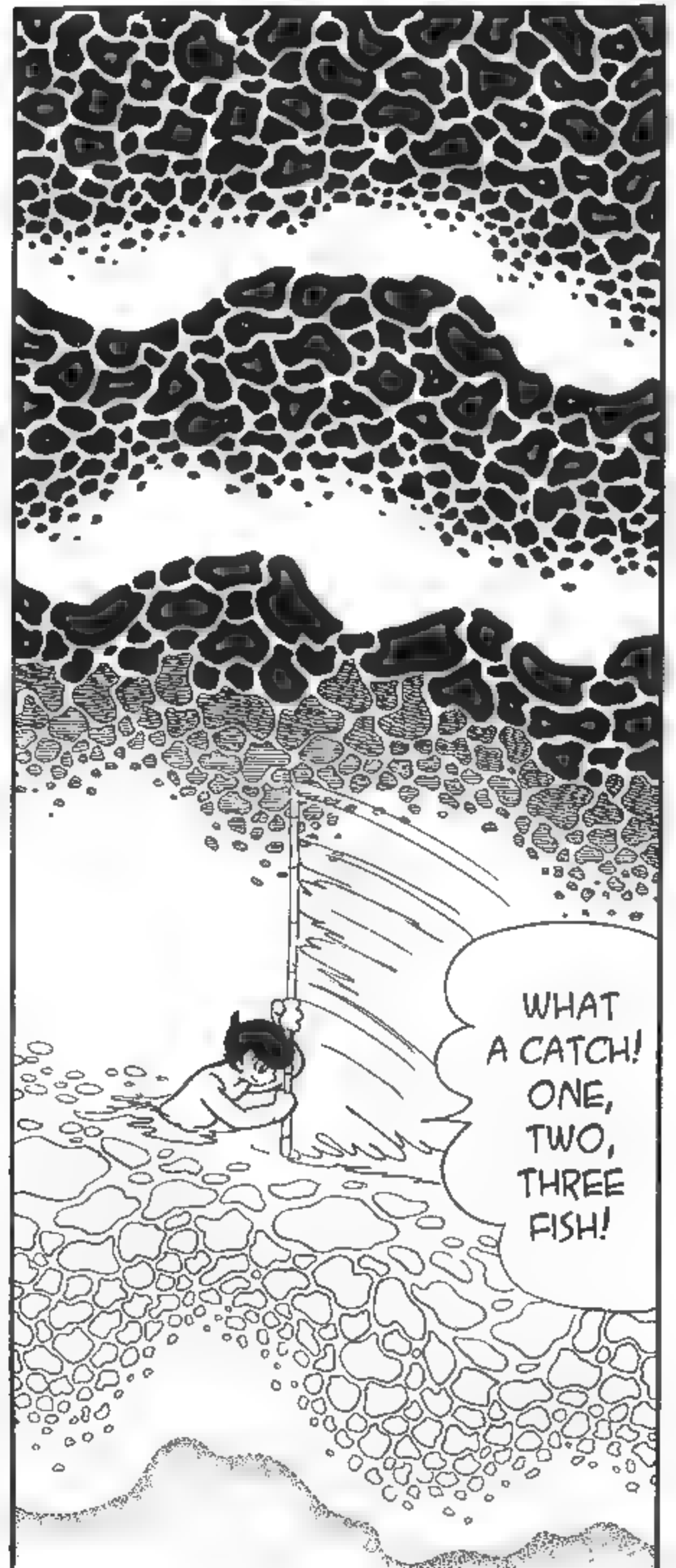
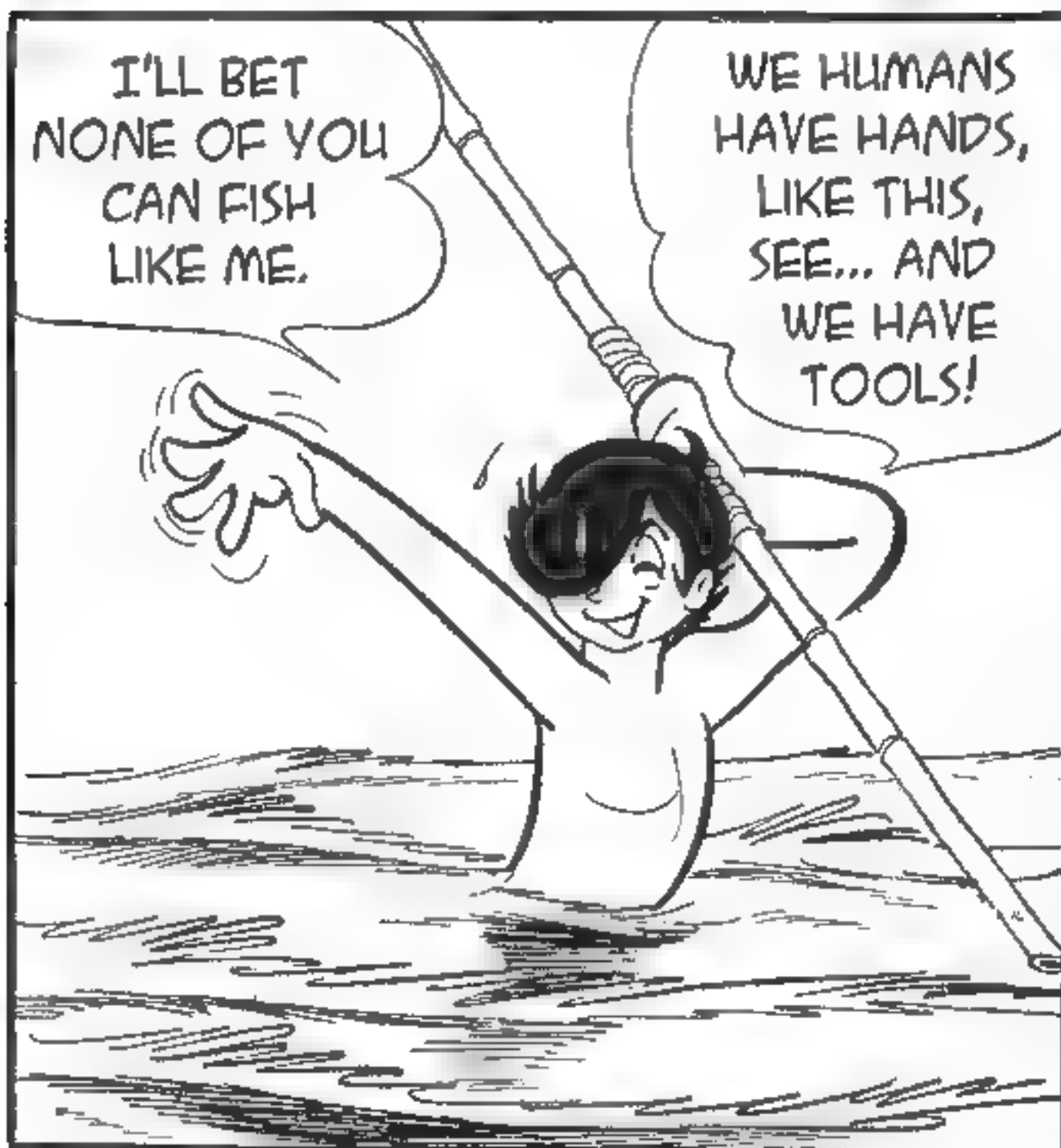
YOU WIN.

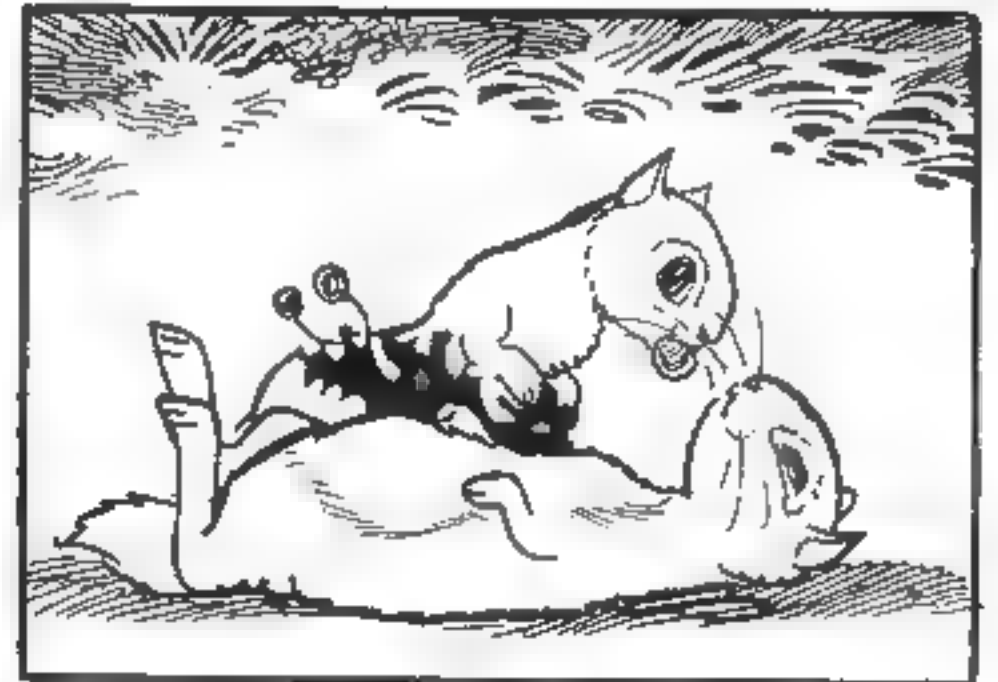
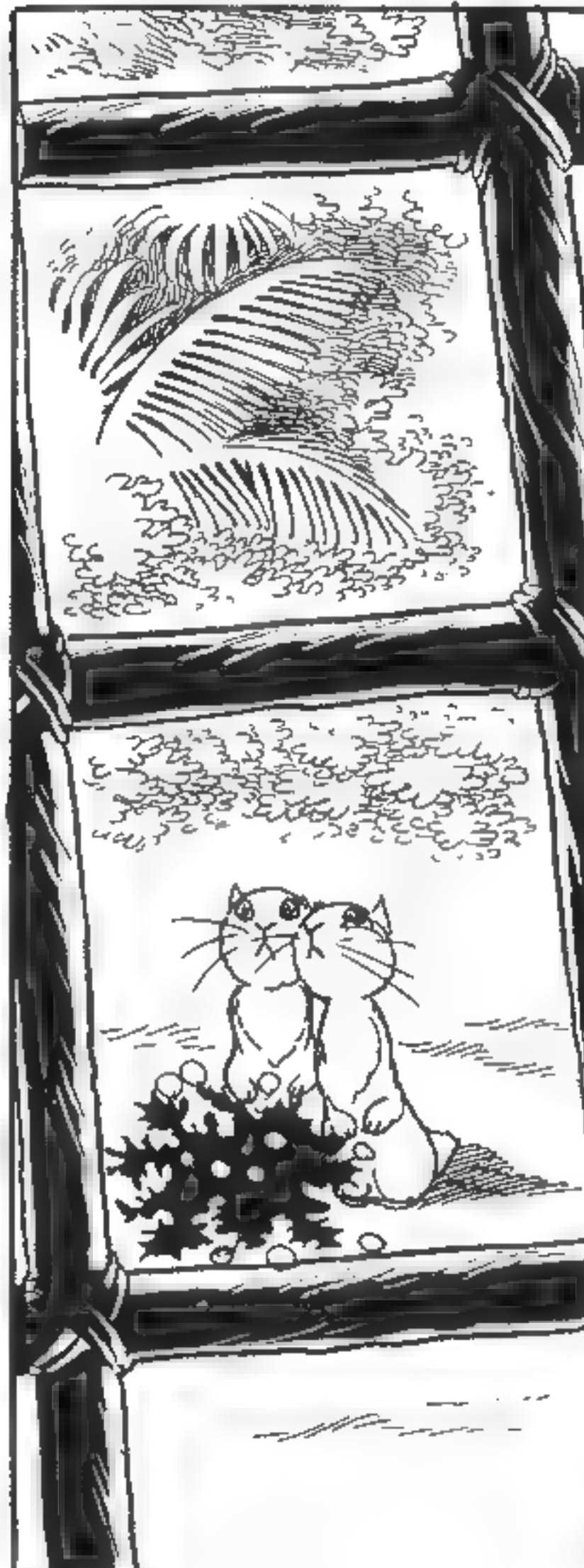
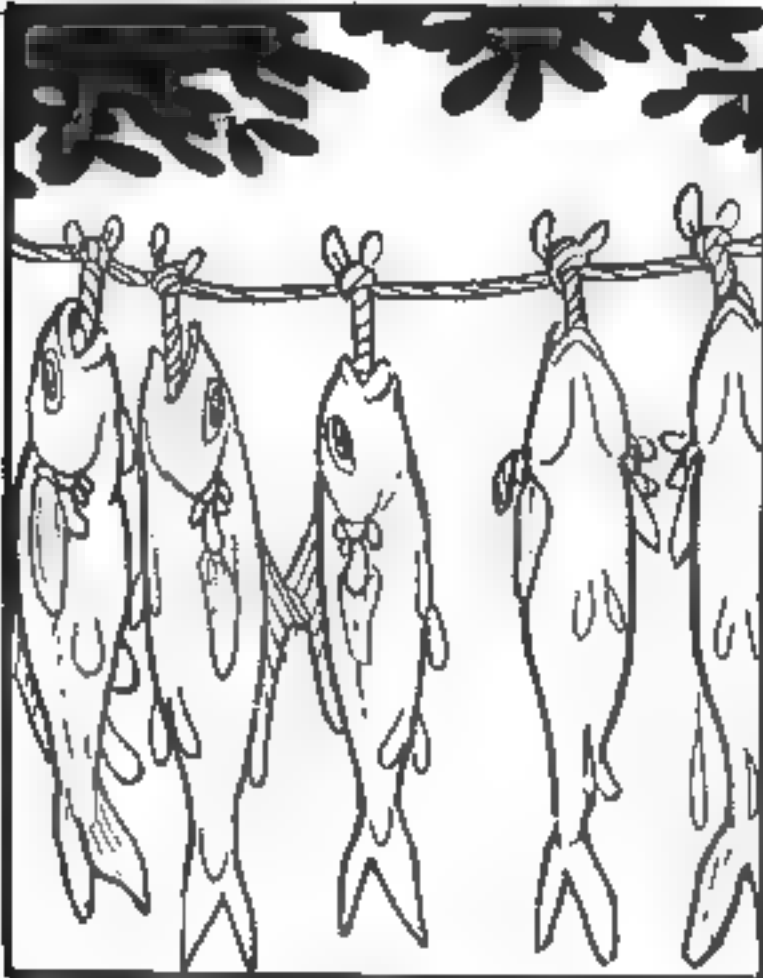
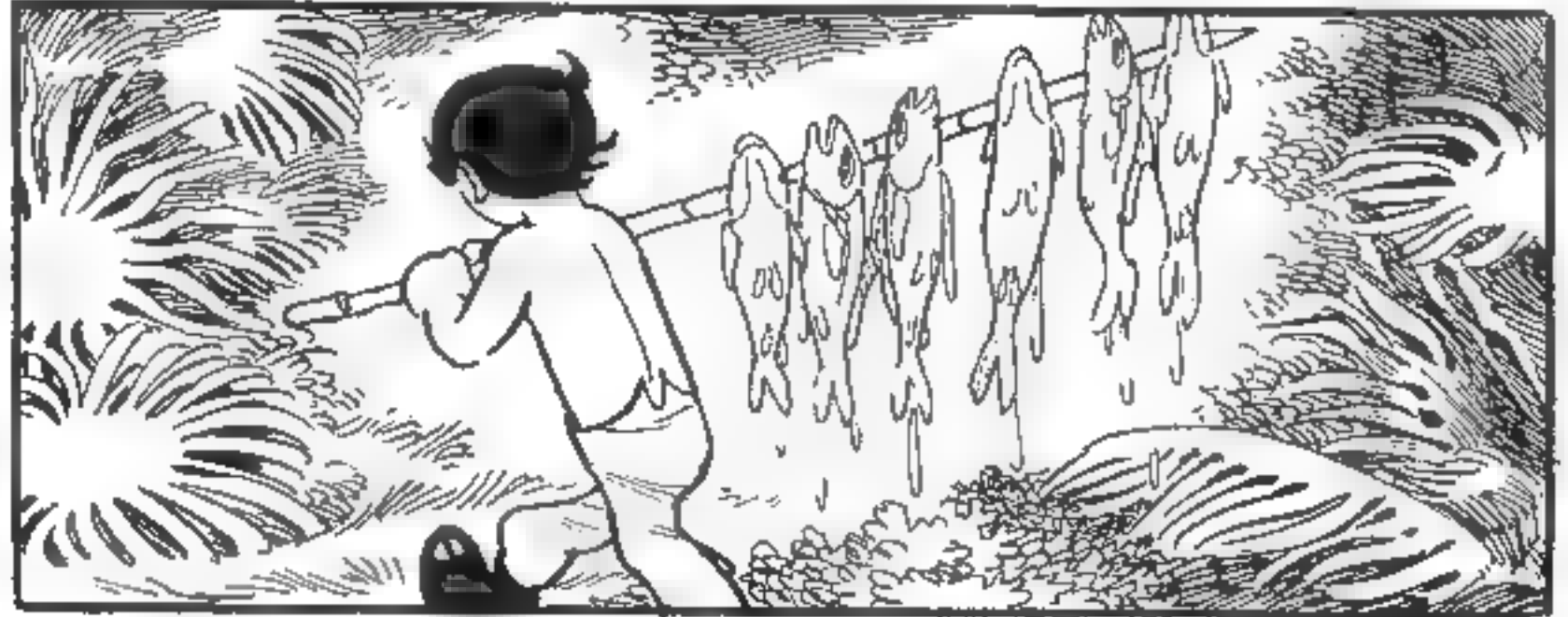
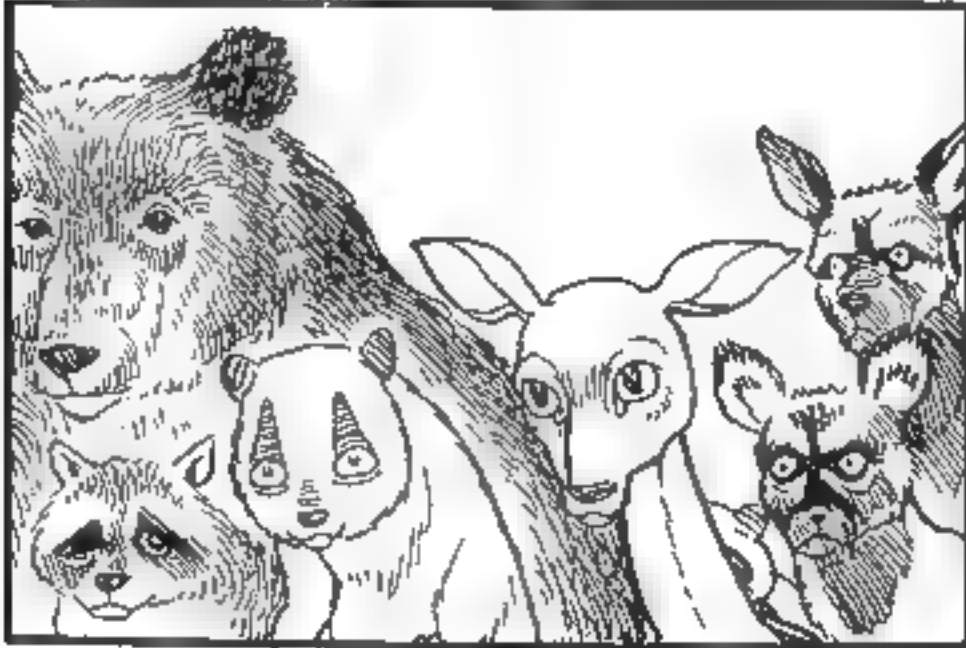


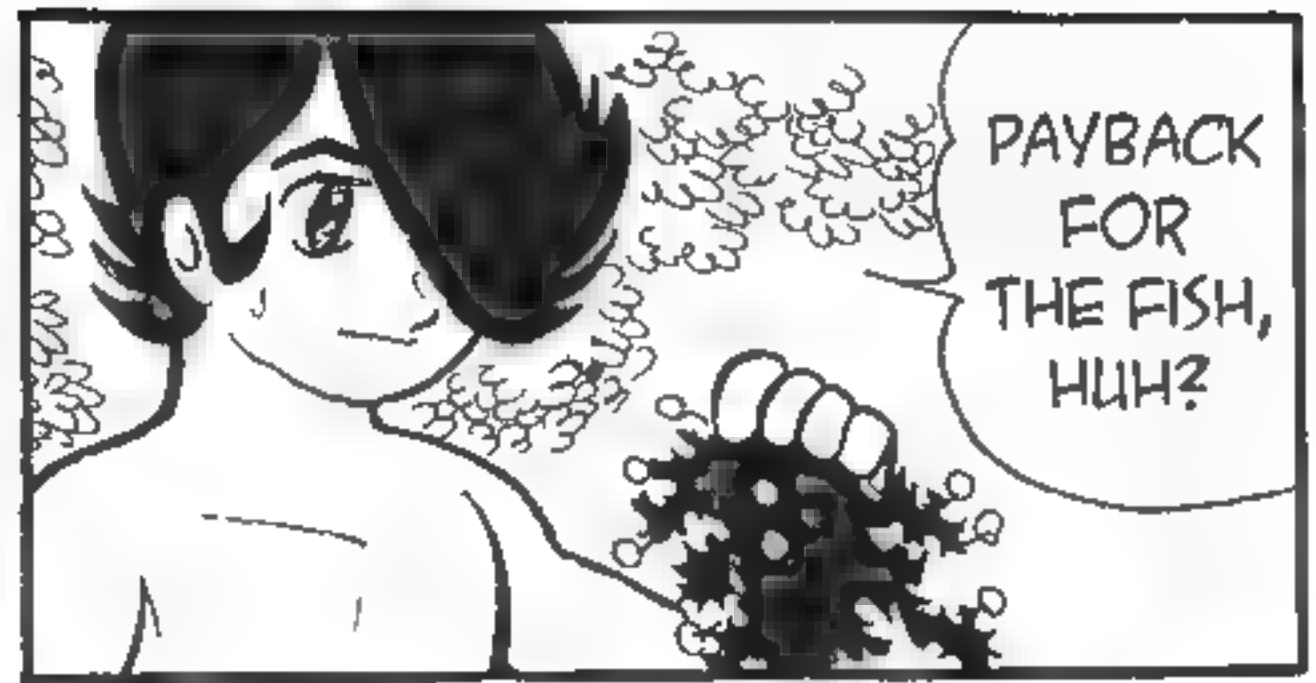


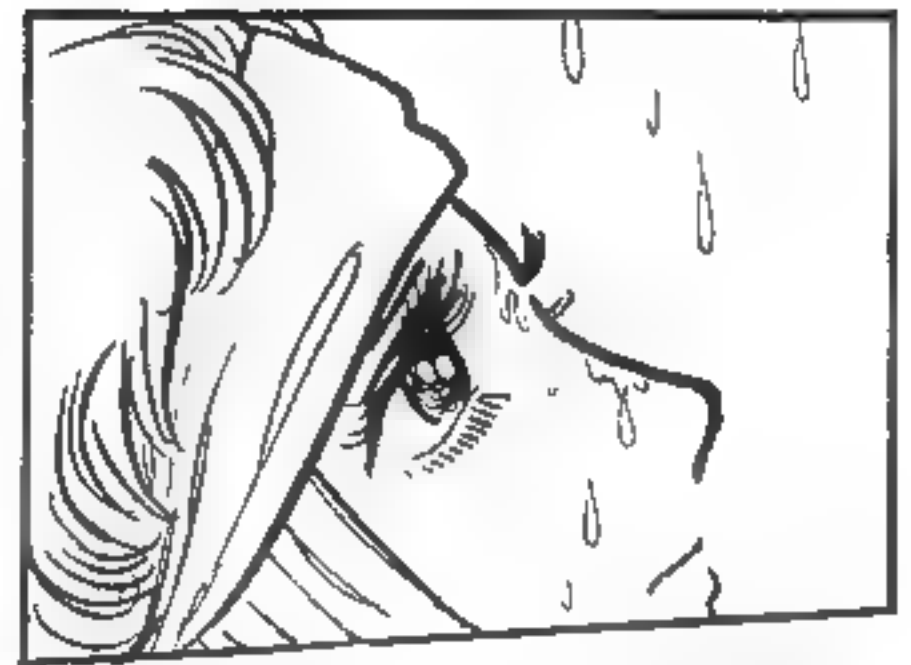












HOW LONG
WAS I
UNCONSCIOUS
?

I DON'T
KNOW...
I DIDN'T
KEEP TRACK.
TEN DAYS,
I GUESS.



YOU
TOOK
CARE OF
ME?

YEAH... TO BE HONEST,
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE A GONER.



THANK YOU...
WHEN WE
GET BACK
TO TOKYO,
I'LL BE SURE
TO REPAY
YOU.



IT'S NOT
GOING TO
BE THAT
EASY...

IT'LL
BE HARD
TO GET
RESCUED.





THE ANIMALS HERE HAVE
A COMMUNAL SOCIETY.
AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE,
WE HAVE TO OBEY
THEIR RULES:
NO KILLING ANIMALS,
AND NO FIRES.
AS LONG AS WE DO THAT,
THEY'LL ACCEPT
US AS THEIR OWN.



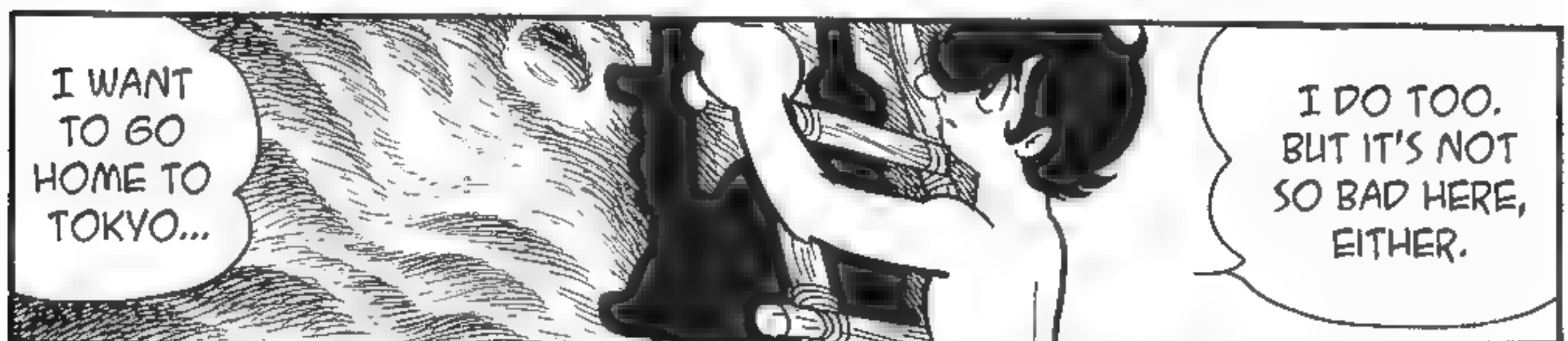
BUT WHY?
WHY?
WHY IS
IT LIKE
THAT?
WHY
SUCH
RULES?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY, BUT
THAT'S
HOW
IT IS.
IT'S A
MYSTERY.



WHEN YOU'RE
BETTER,
I'LL SHOW YOU
AROUND.

THE ANIMALS
LEAD PERFECTLY
CONTENTED LIVES.
AND THEY'RE CUTE
ONCE YOU GET
TO KNOW
THEM.



I WANT
TO GO
HOME TO
TOKYO...

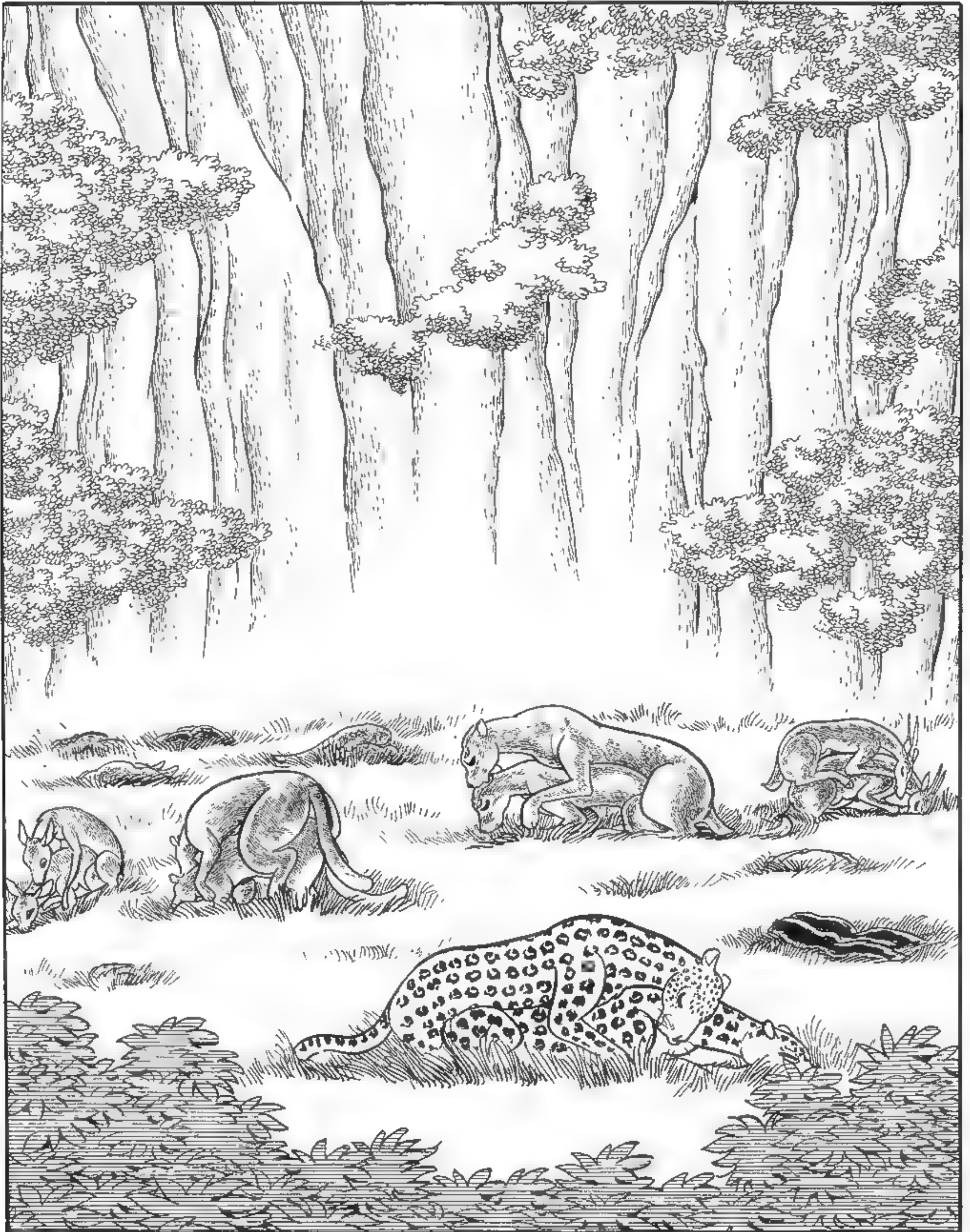
I DO TOO.
BUT IT'S NOT
SO BAD HERE,
EITHER.

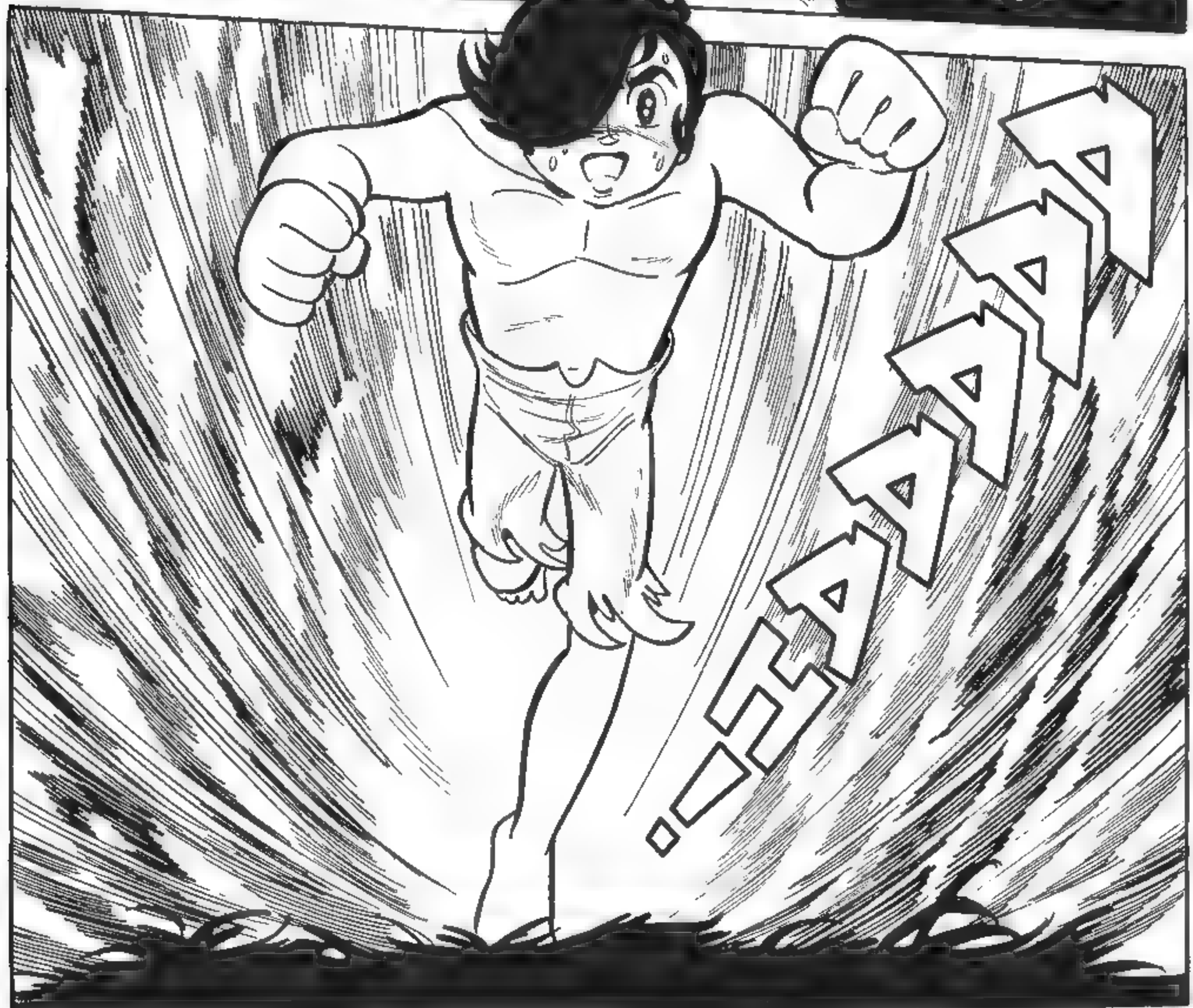
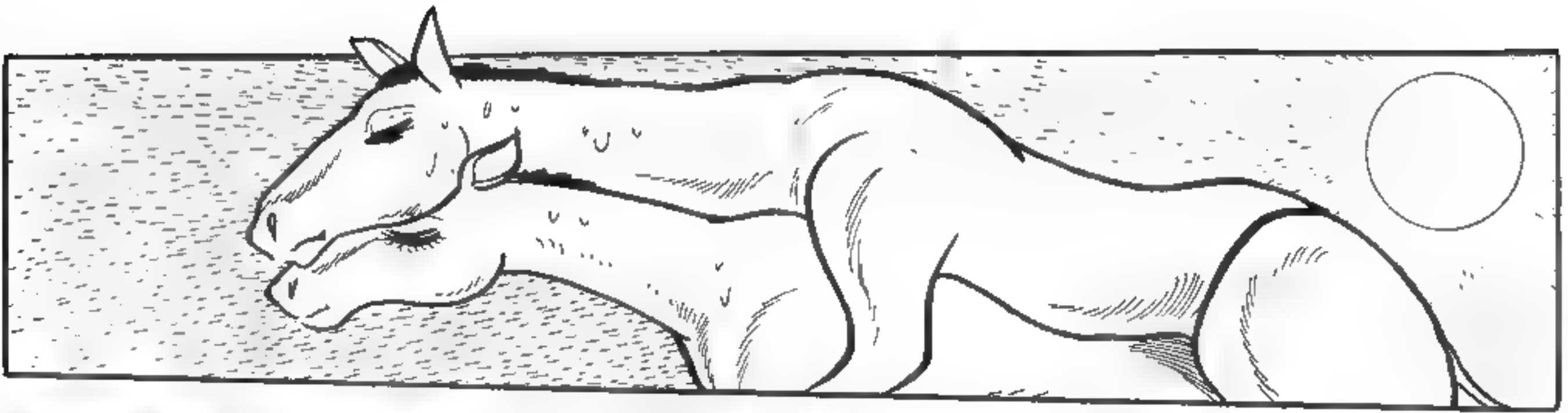


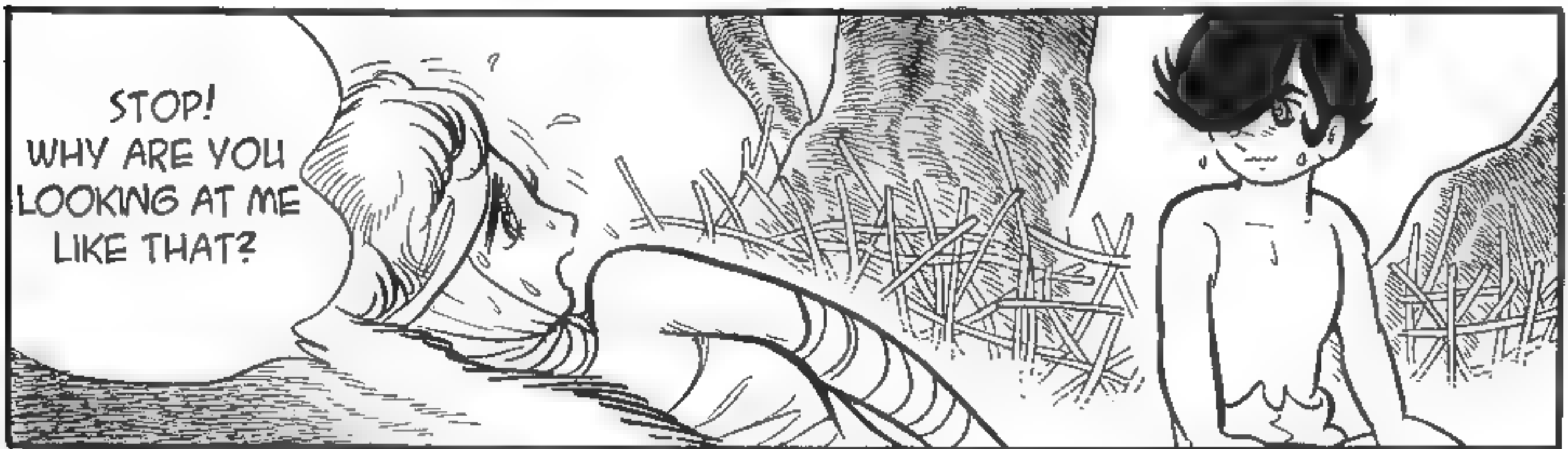
AT LEAST IT'S
BETTER THAN
SOME STUPID,
LOUD,
POLLUTED
DOWNTOWN.

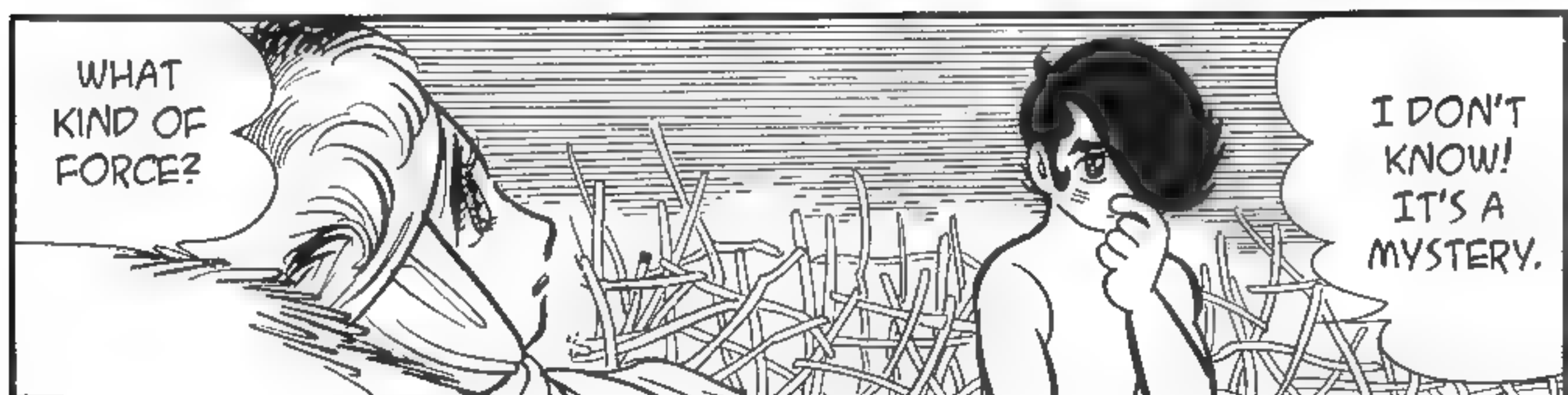
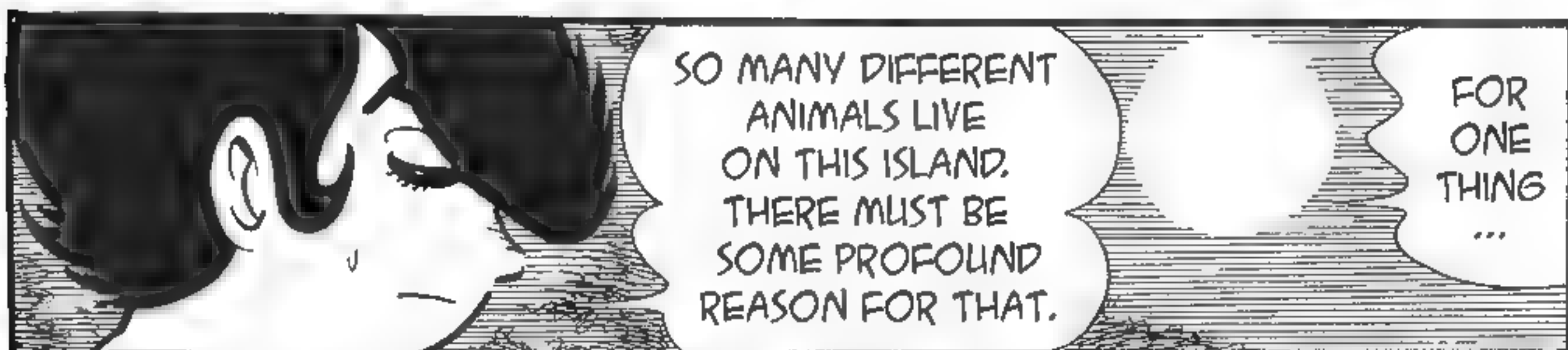








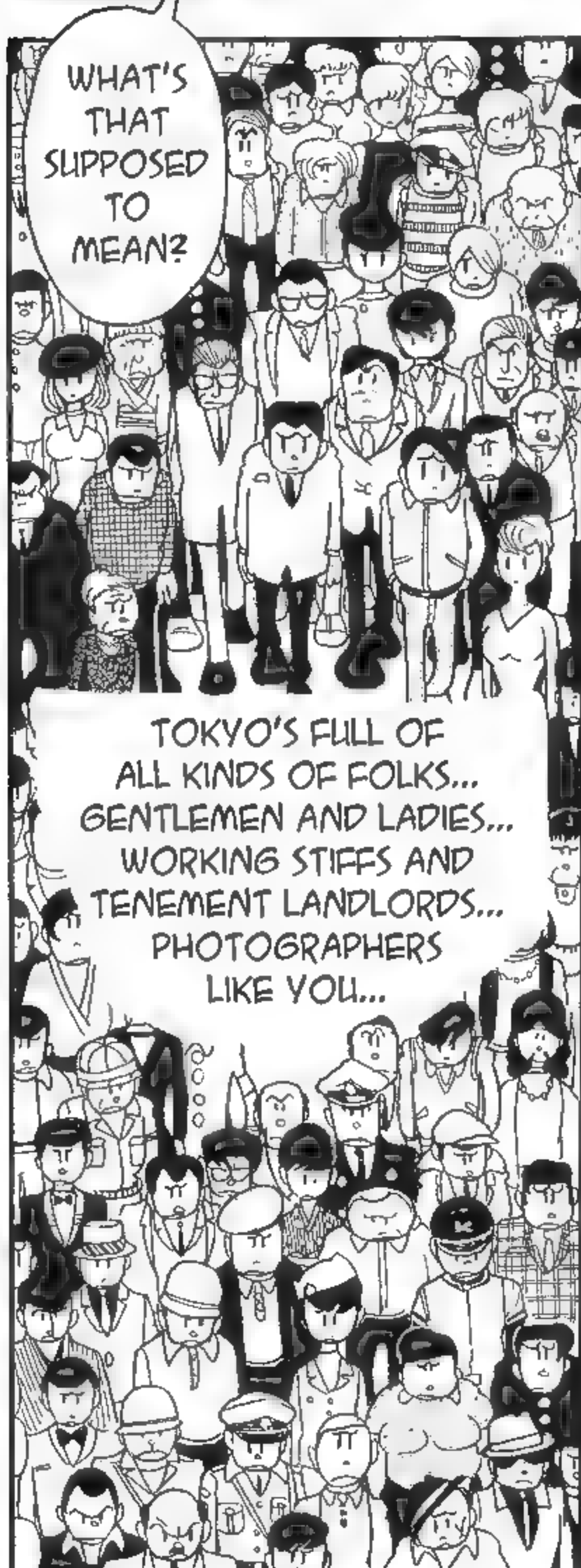






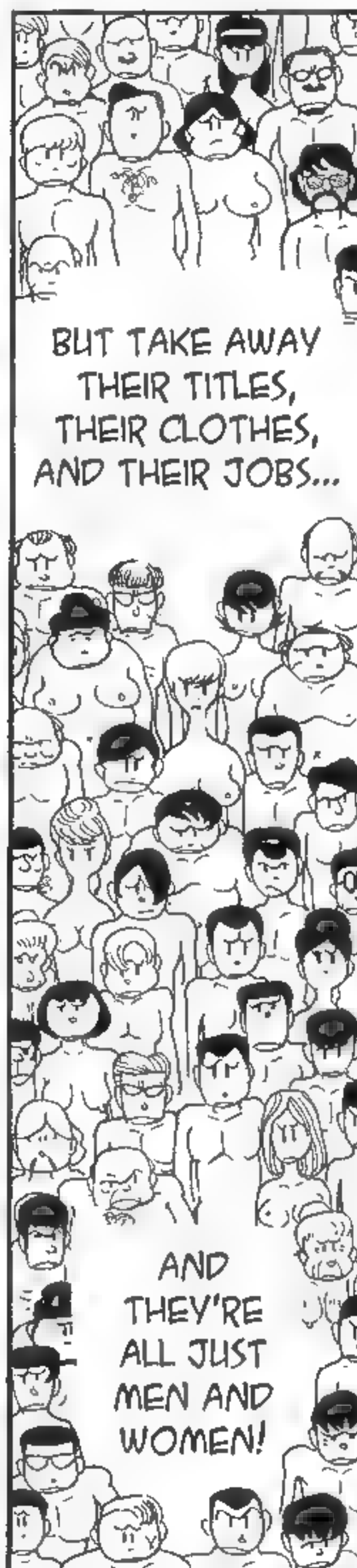
YOU MAY BE
A HOTSHOT
PHOTOGRAPHER
WITH ARTISTIC
PRETENSIONS...

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL A
WOMAN.



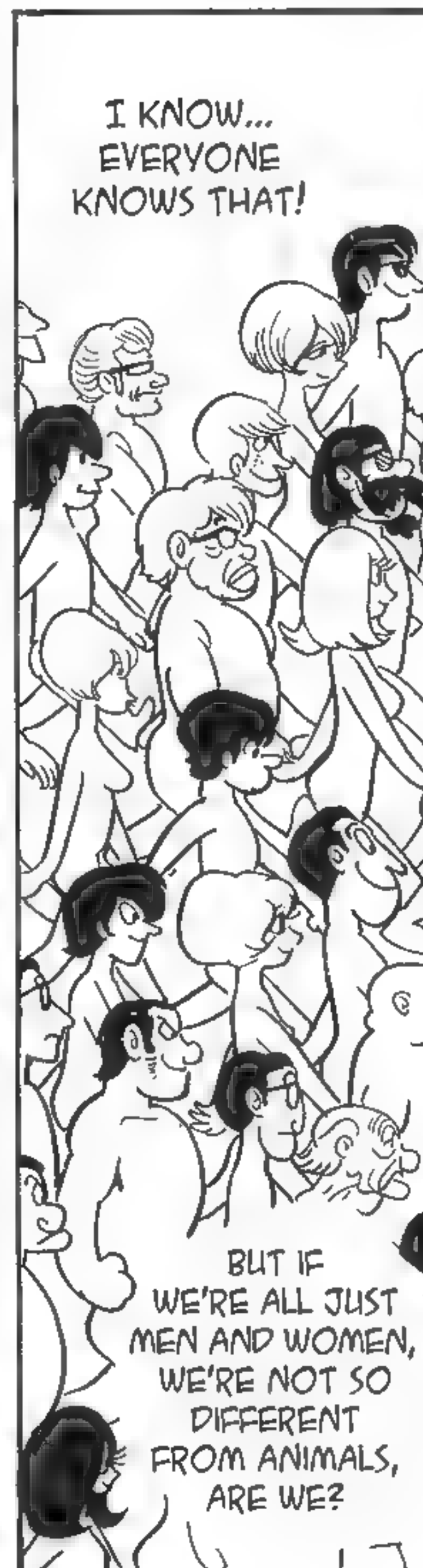
WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO
MEAN?

TOKYO'S FULL OF
ALL KINDS OF FOLKS...
GENTLEMEN AND LADIES...
WORKING STIFFS AND
TENEMENT LANDLORDS...
PHOTOGRAPHERS
LIKE YOU...



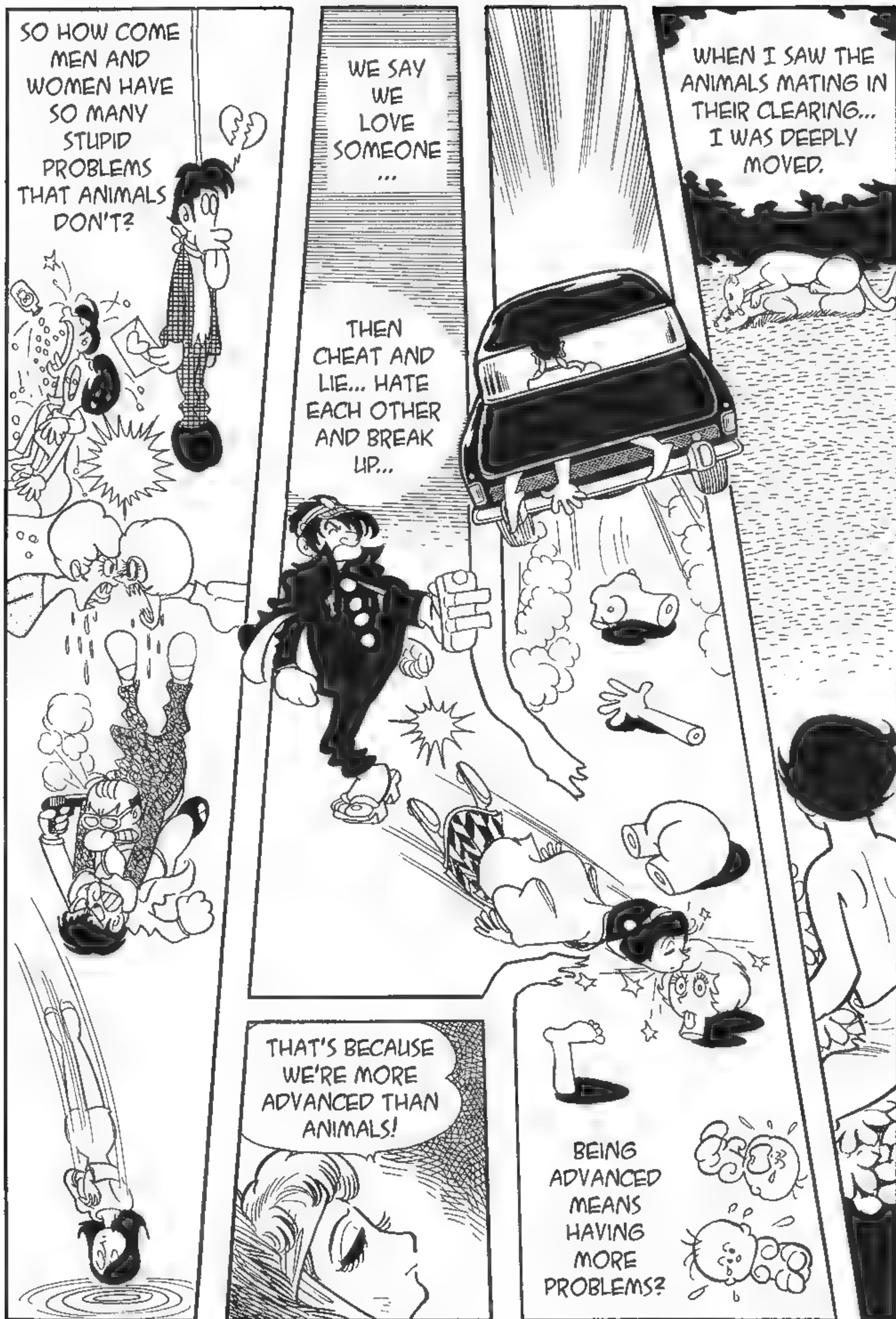
BUT TAKE AWAY
THEIR TITLES,
THEIR CLOTHES,
AND THEIR JOBS...

AND
THEY'RE
ALL JUST
MEN AND
WOMEN!



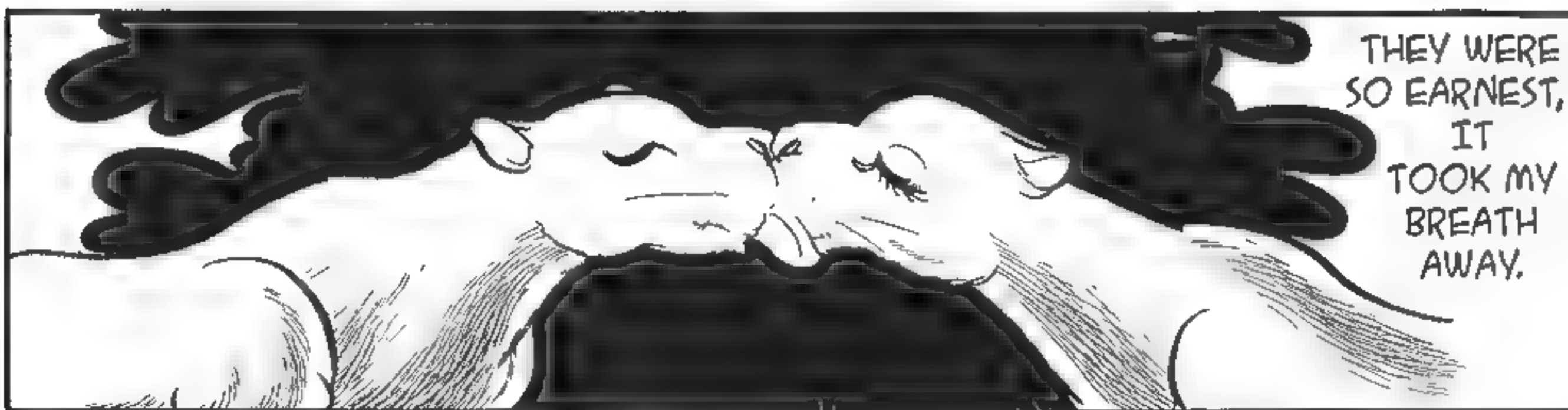
I KNOW...
EVERYONE
KNOWS THAT!

BUT IF
WE'RE ALL JUST
MEN AND WOMEN,
WE'RE NOT SO
DIFFERENT
FROM ANIMALS,
ARE WE?





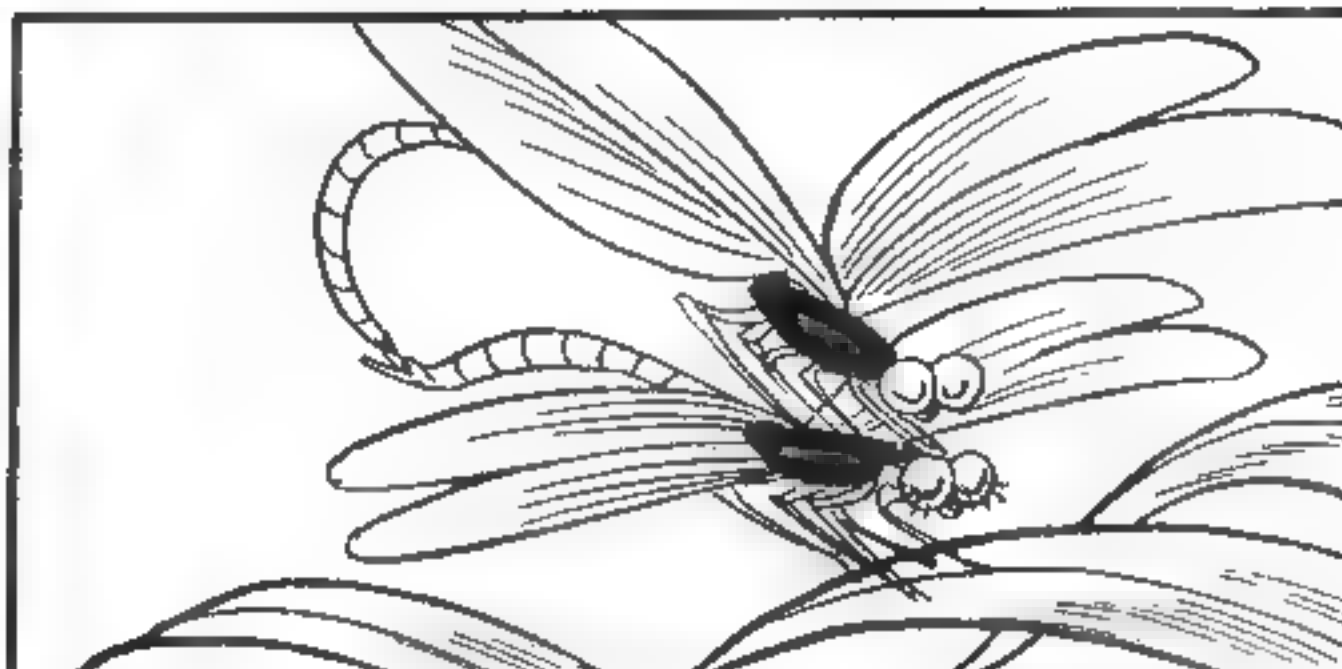
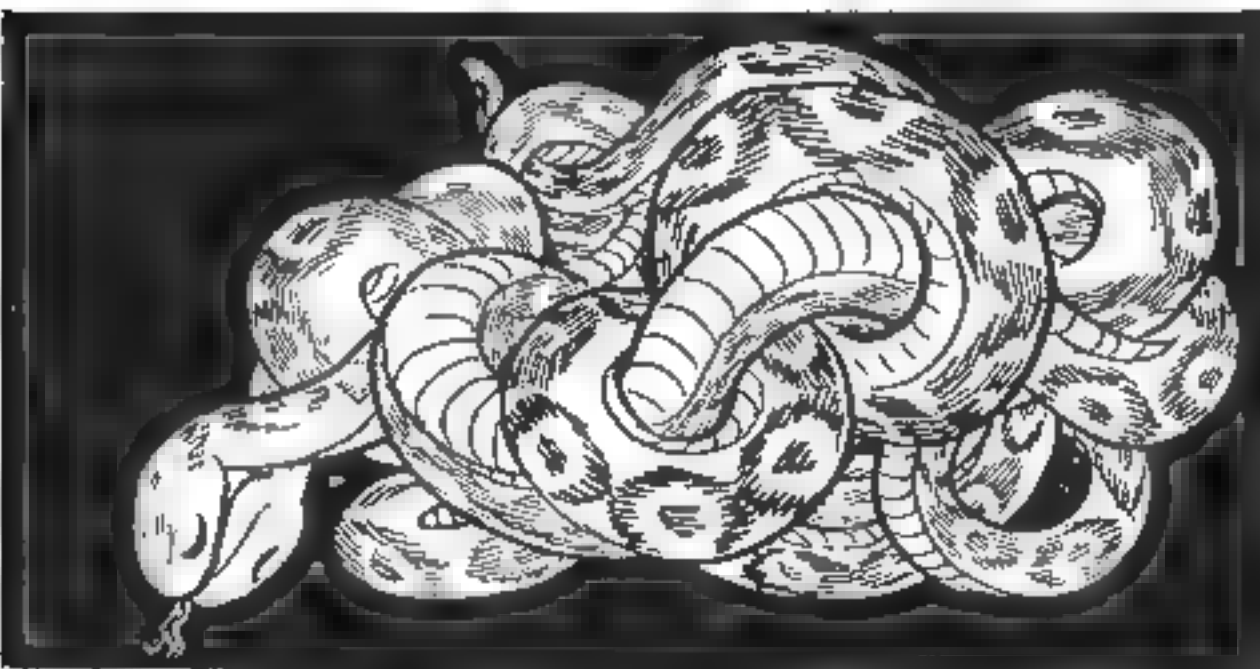
THEY
PERFORMED
THEIR ACTS
OF LOVE
WITH SUCH
SERIOUSNESS.



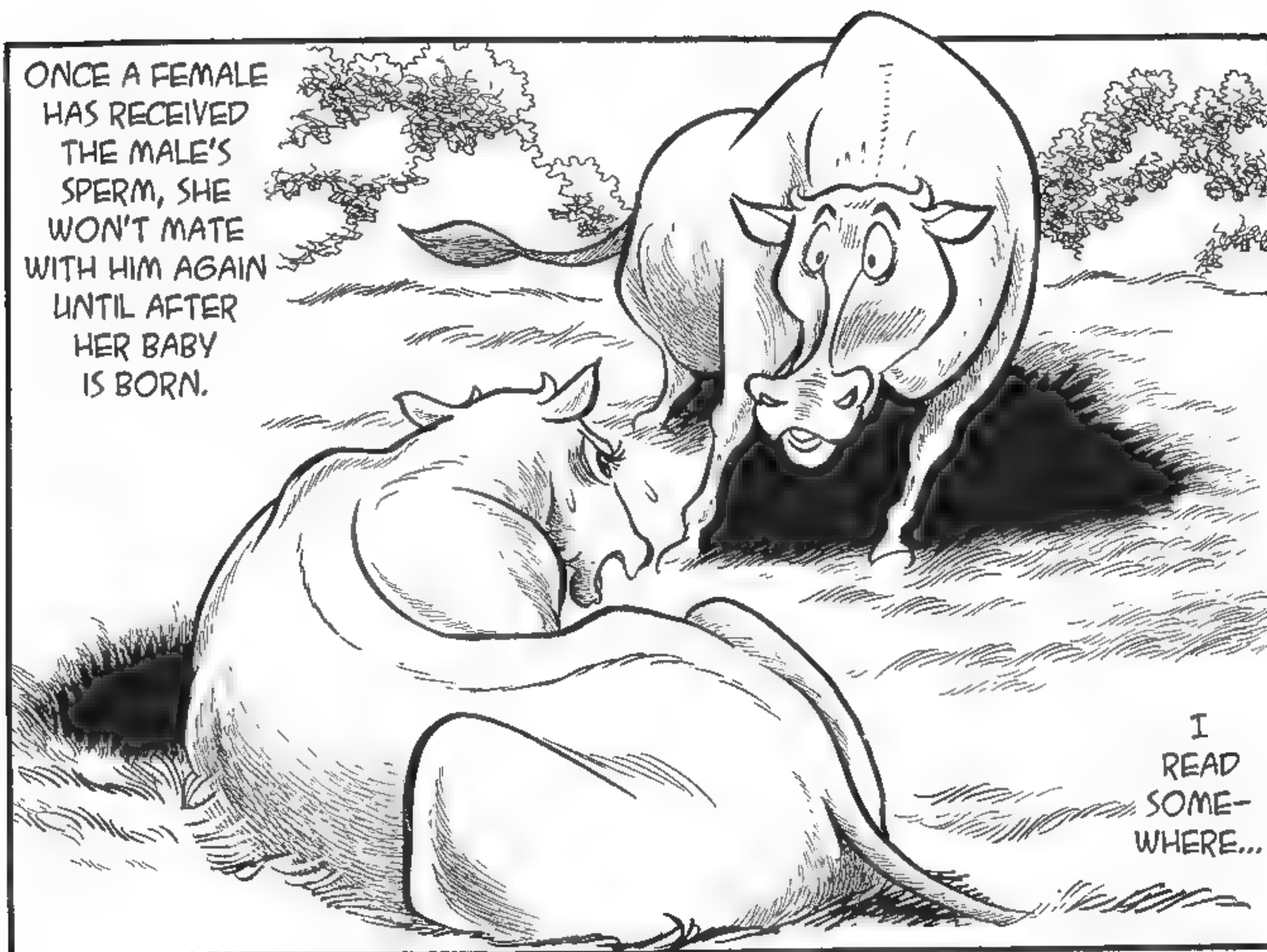
THEY WERE
SO EARNEST,
IT
TOOK MY
BREATH
AWAY.



THEY MUST
KNOW THAT
MATING IS
THE MAJOR
BUSINESS OF
CREATING
DESCENDANTS.

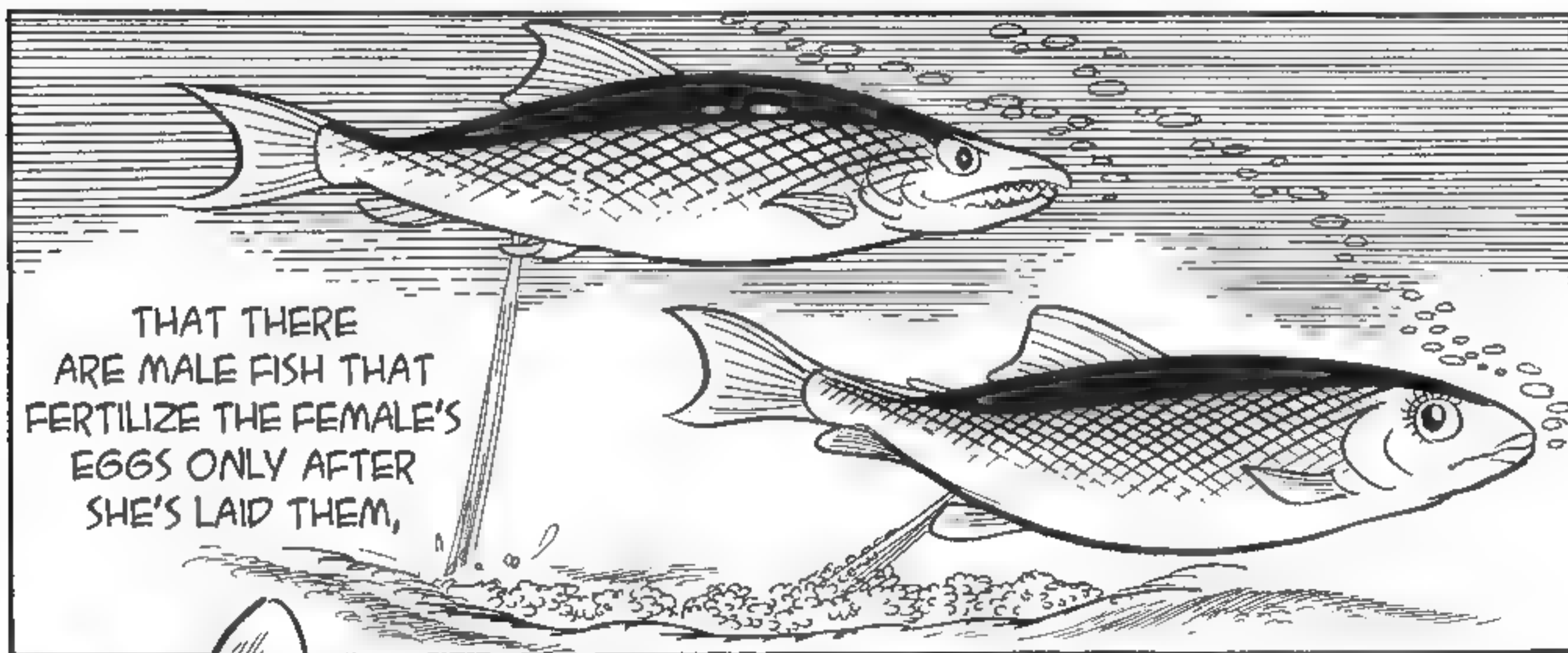


ONCE A FEMALE
HAS RECEIVED
THE MALE'S
SPERM, SHE
WON'T MATE
WITH HIM AGAIN
UNTIL AFTER
HER BABY
IS BORN.

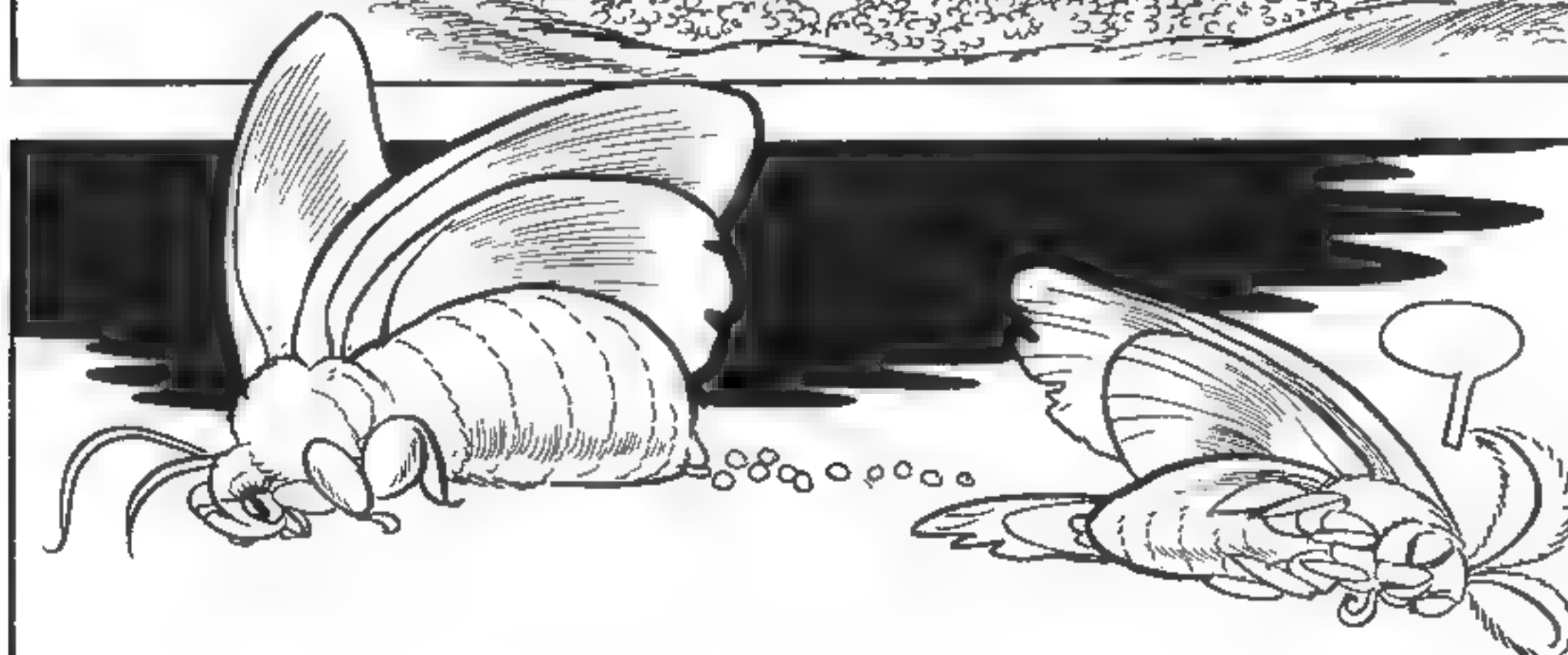


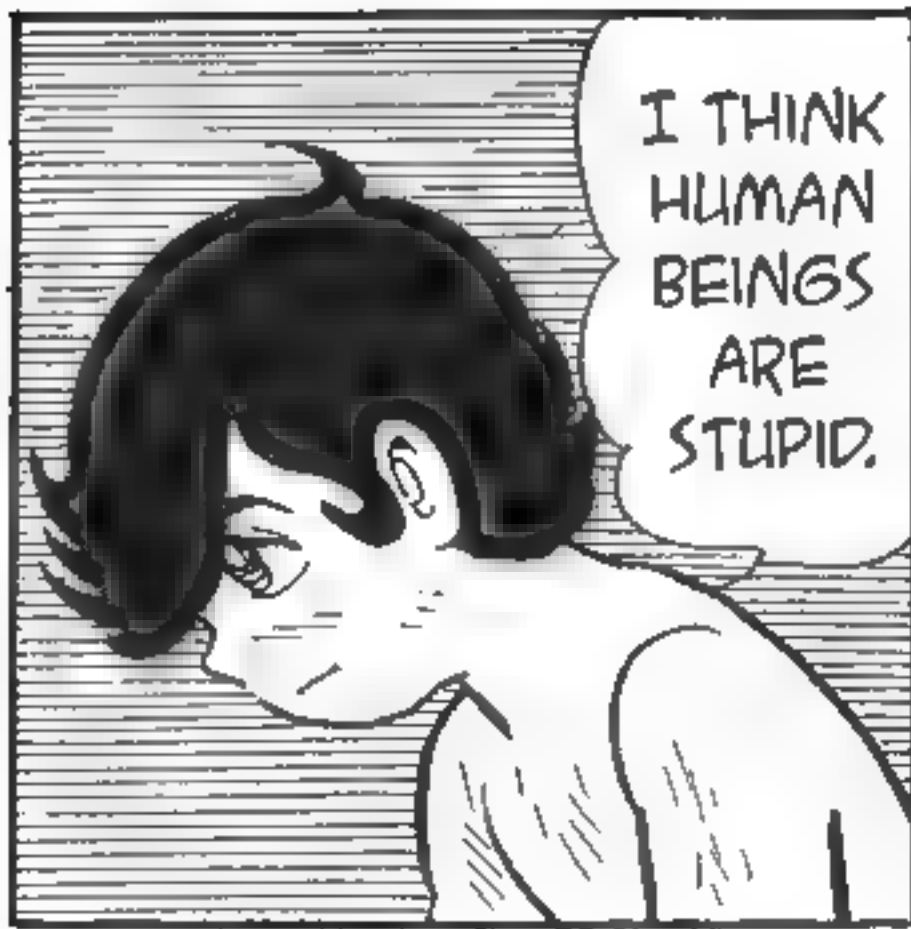
I
READ
SOME-
WHERE...

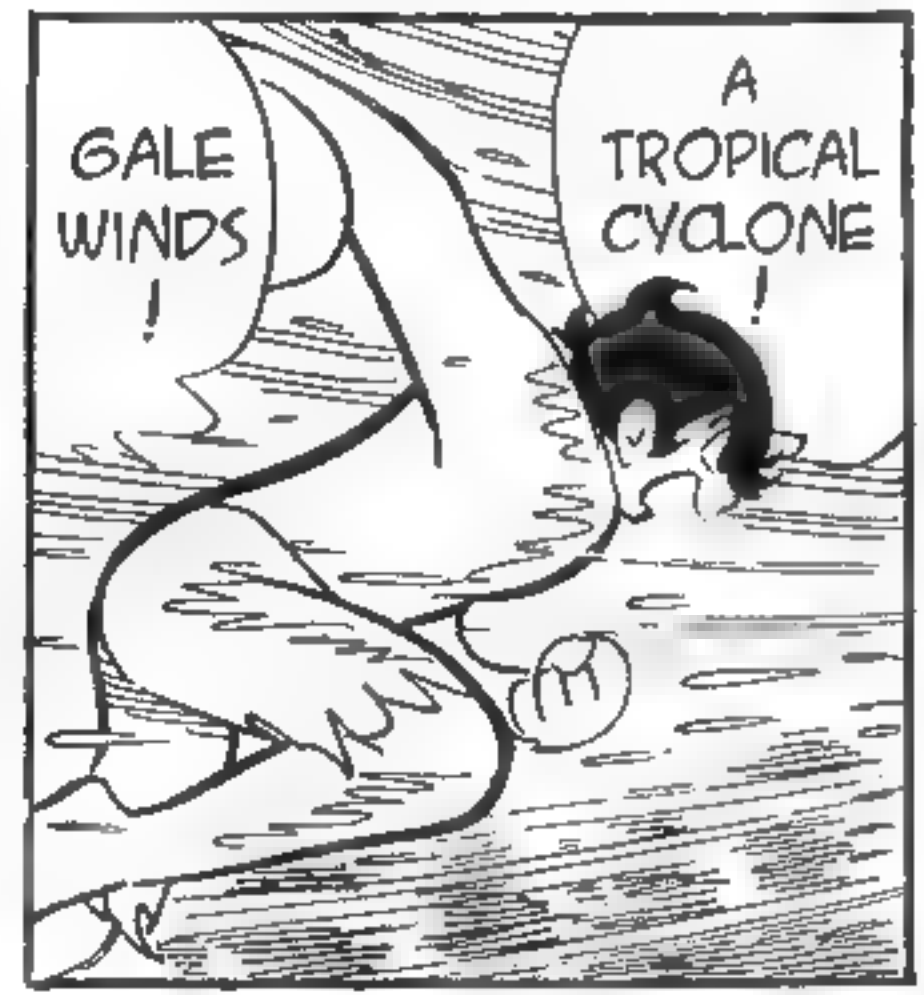
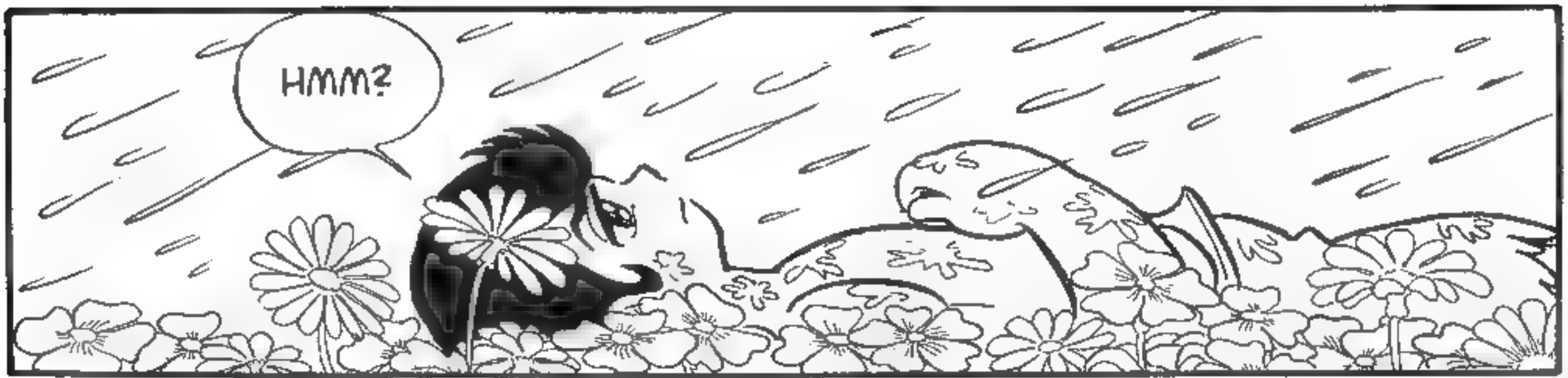
THAT THERE
ARE MALE FISH THAT
FERTILIZE THE FEMALE'S
EGGS ONLY AFTER
SHE'S LAID THEM,

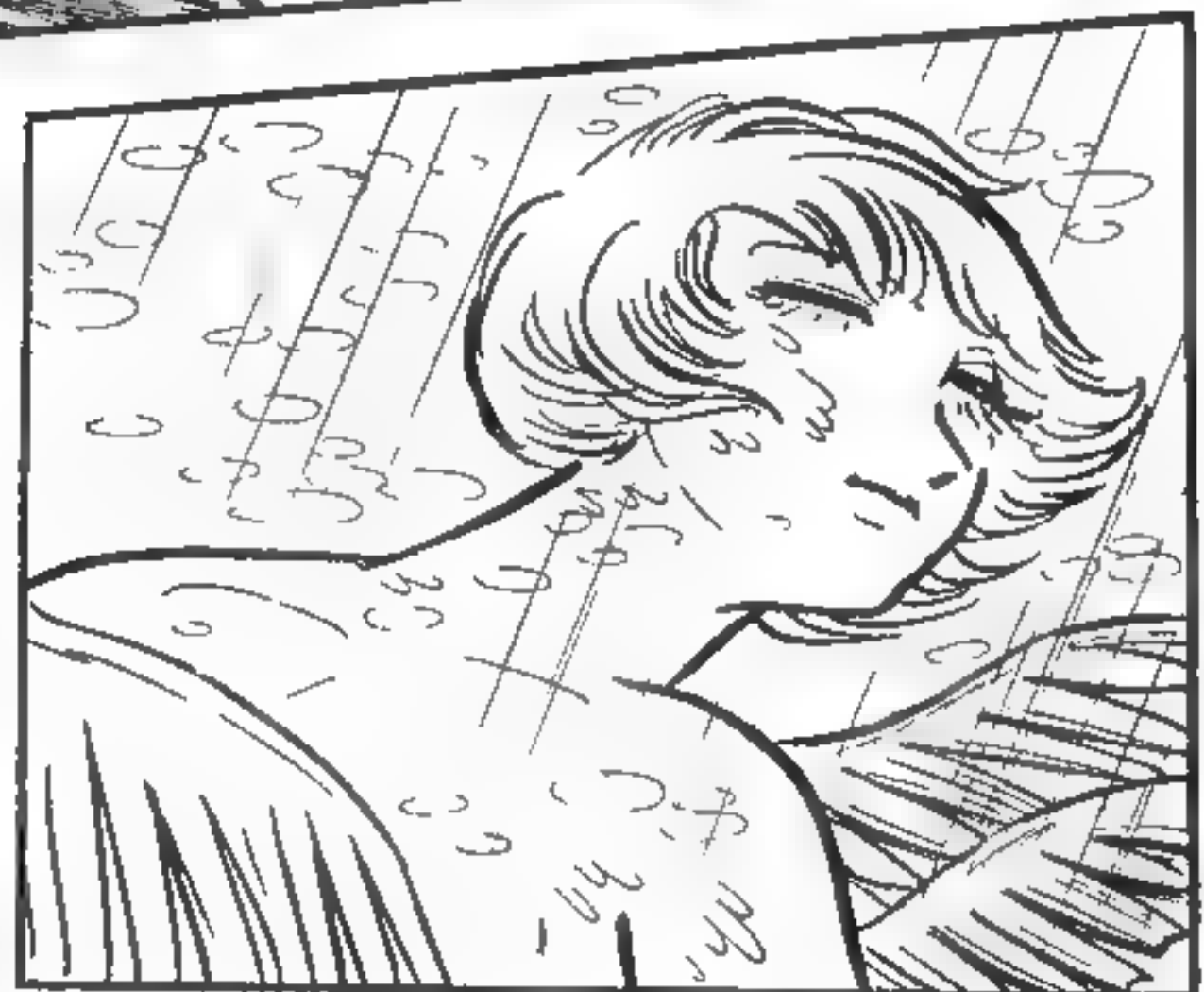
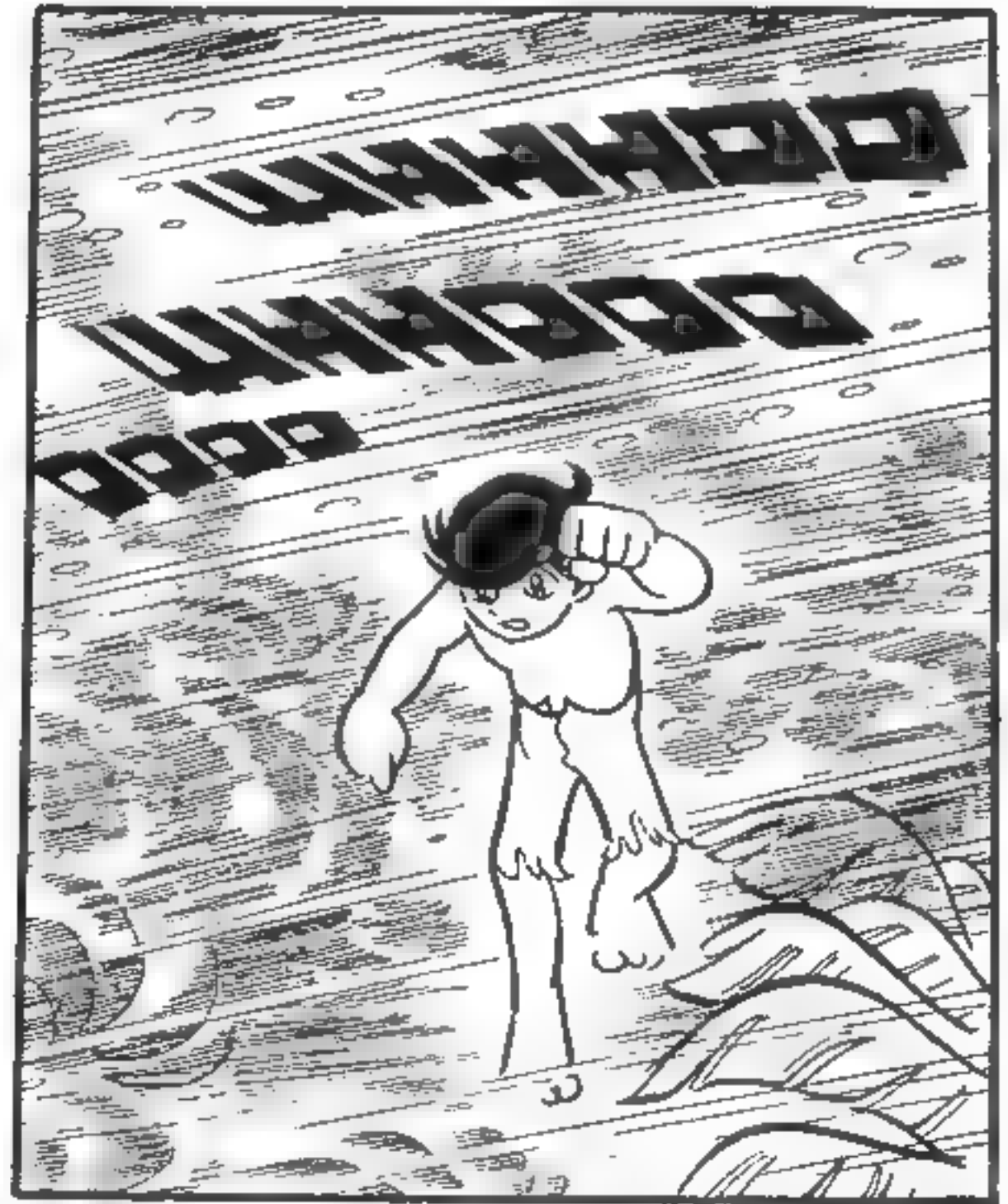
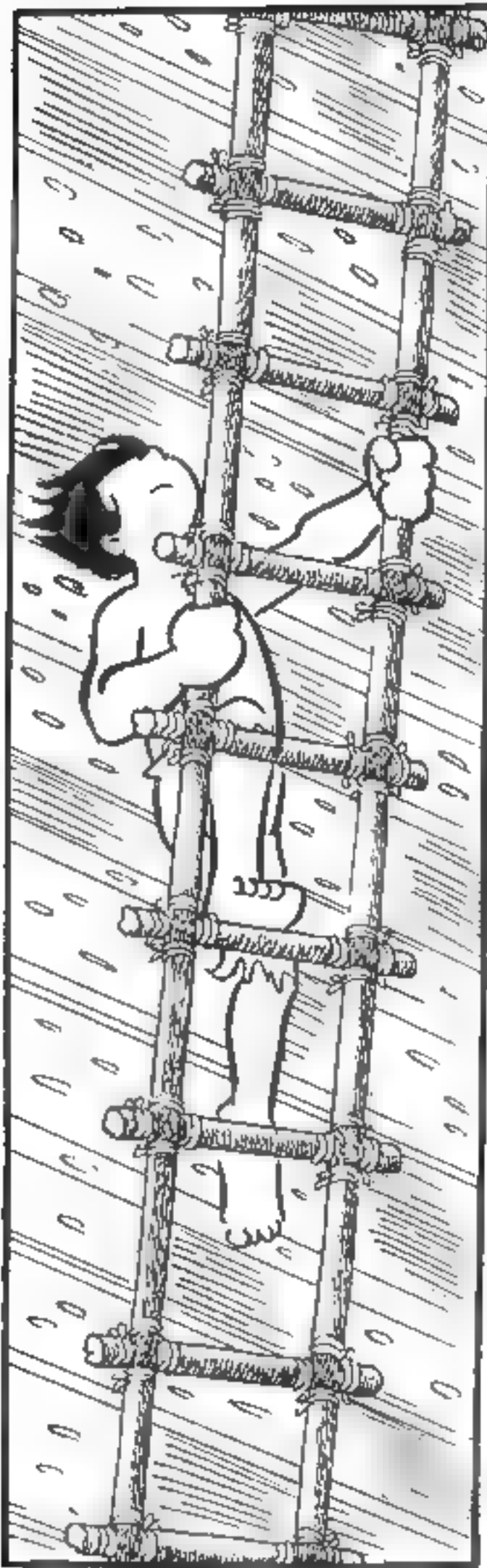


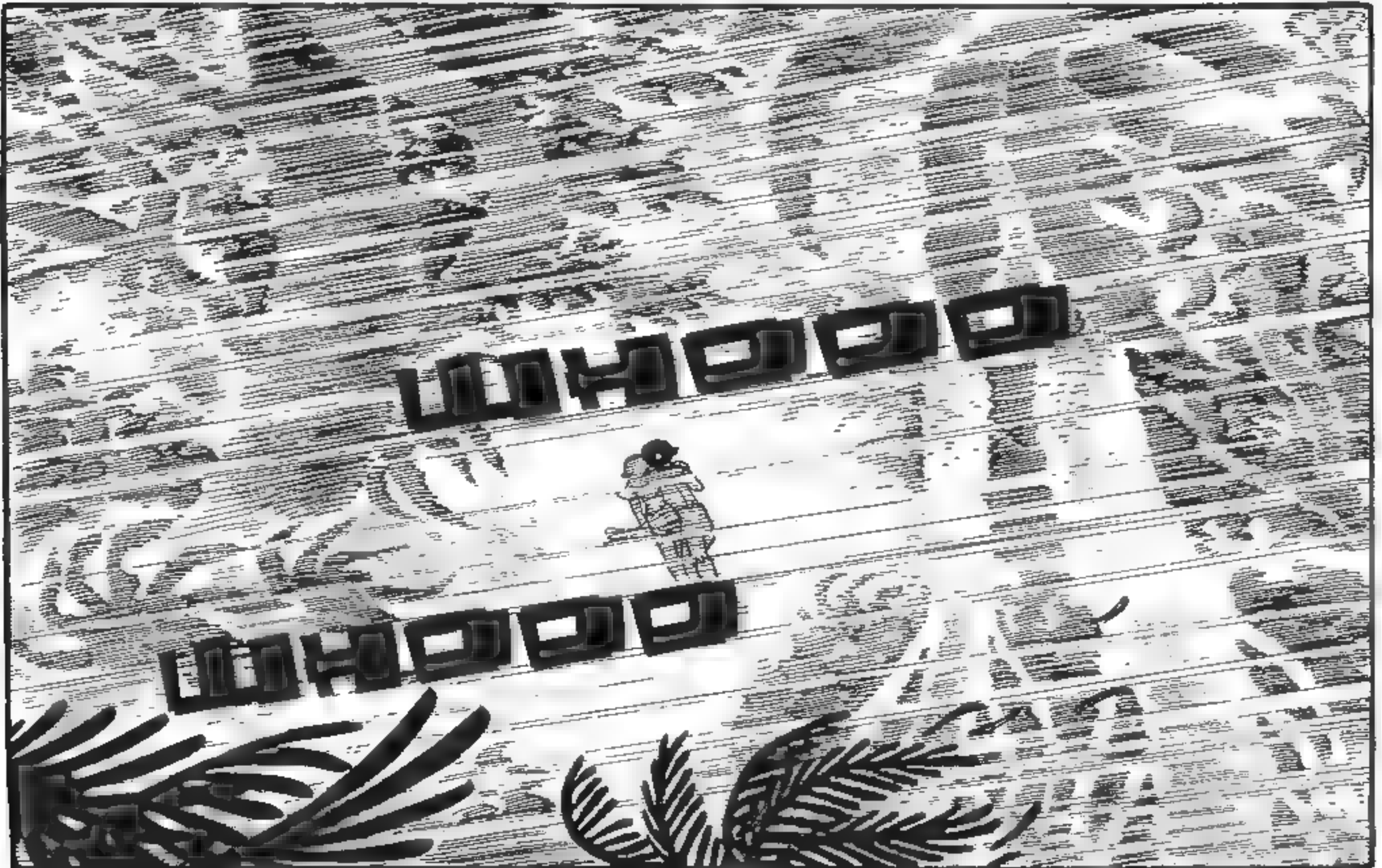
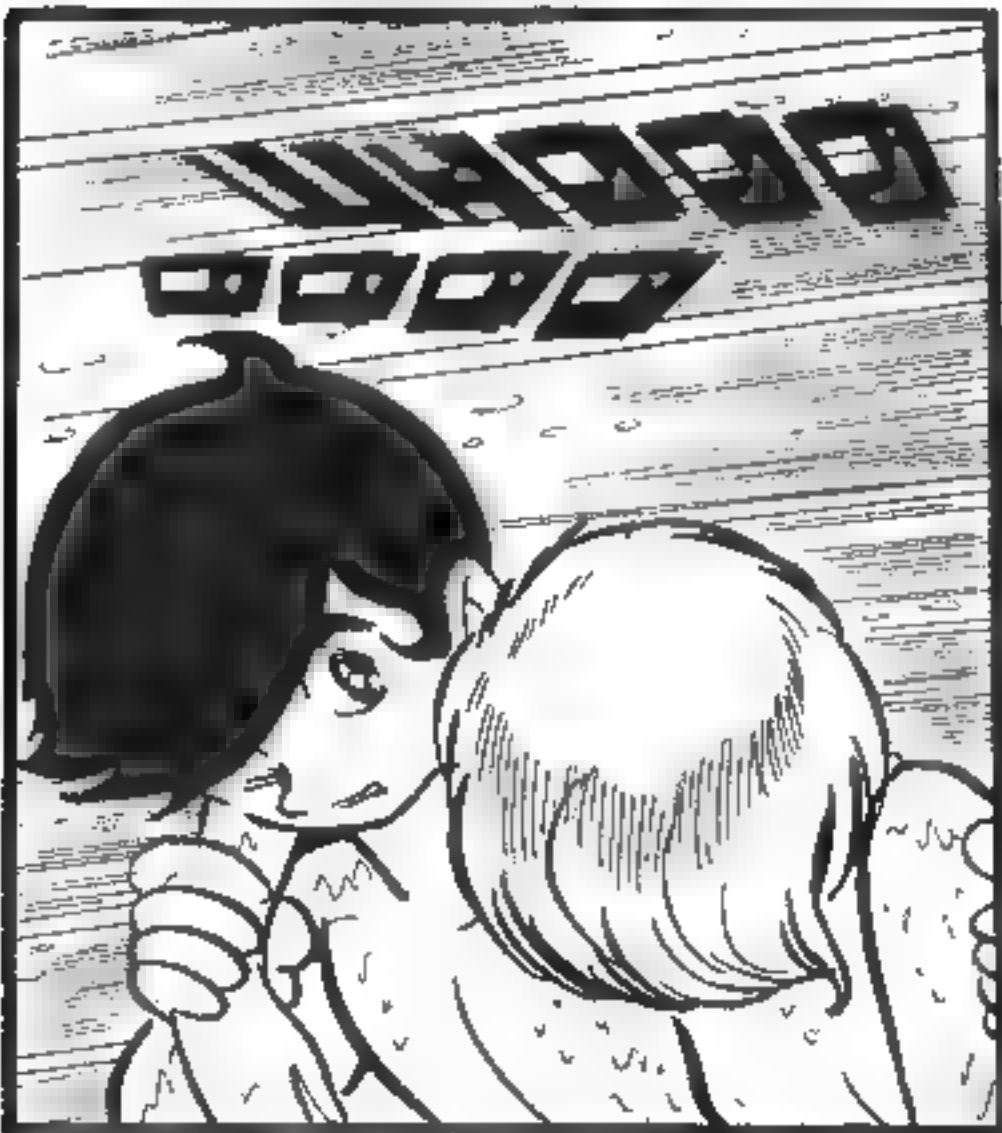
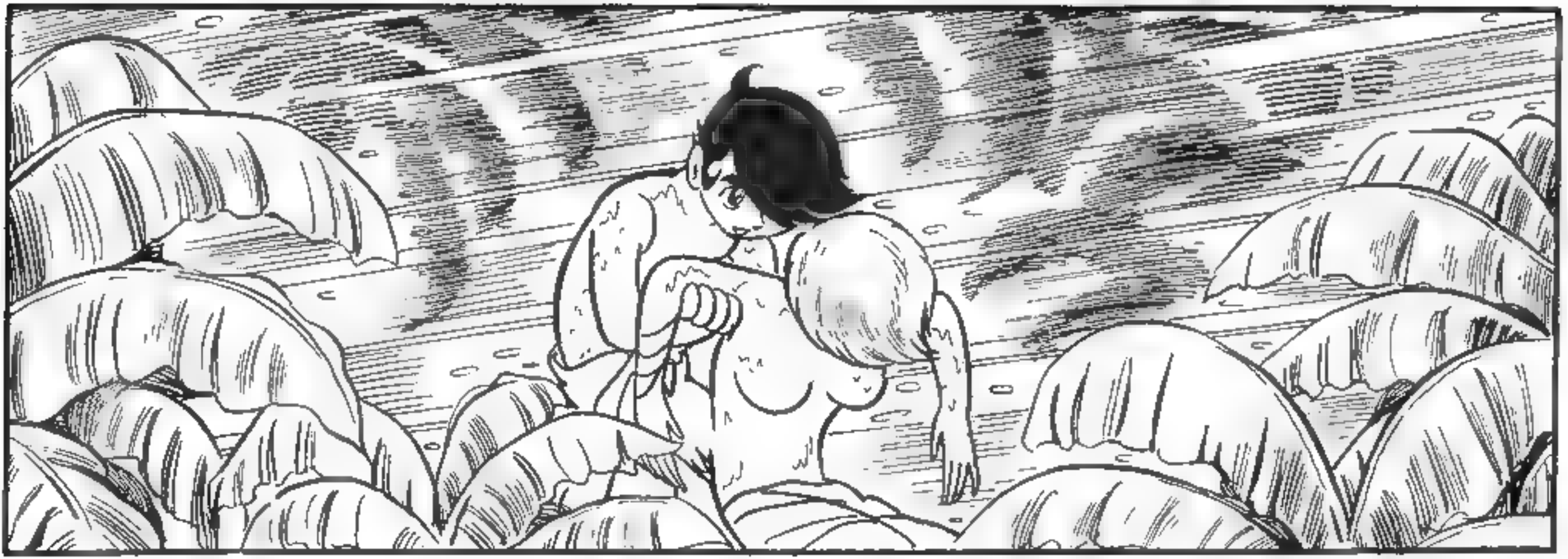
AND MALE
INSECTS WHO
DIE AFTER
THEY'VE
DELIVERED
THEIR SEED TO
A FEMALE—
THEIR WORK
DONE.











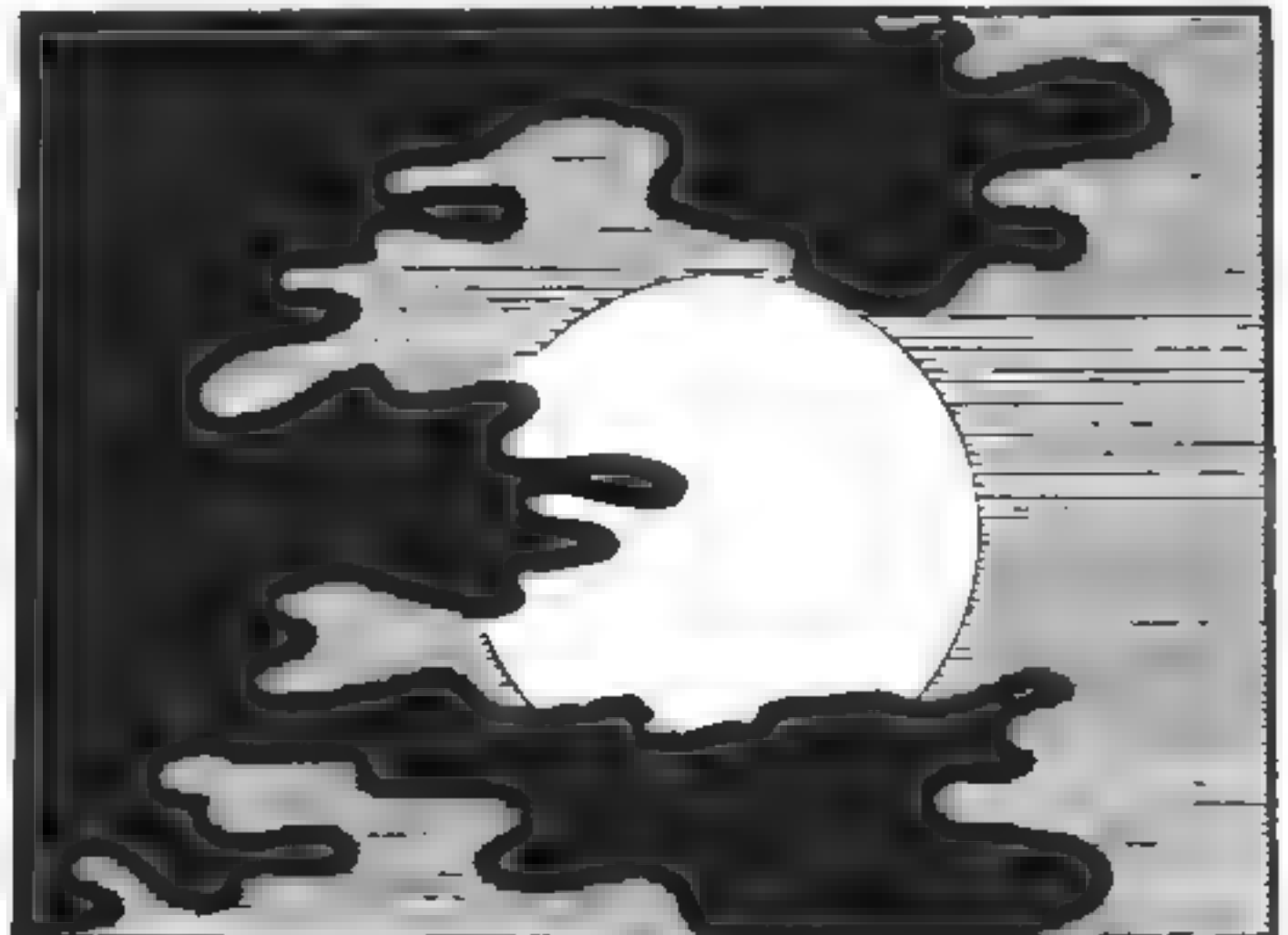


IT'S A
SOUTHWEST
WIND... BUT
ONCE THE EYE
IS PAST, IT'LL
BLOW FROM
THE NORTHEAST,
SO THE SOUTH
SIDE IS
SAFEST.



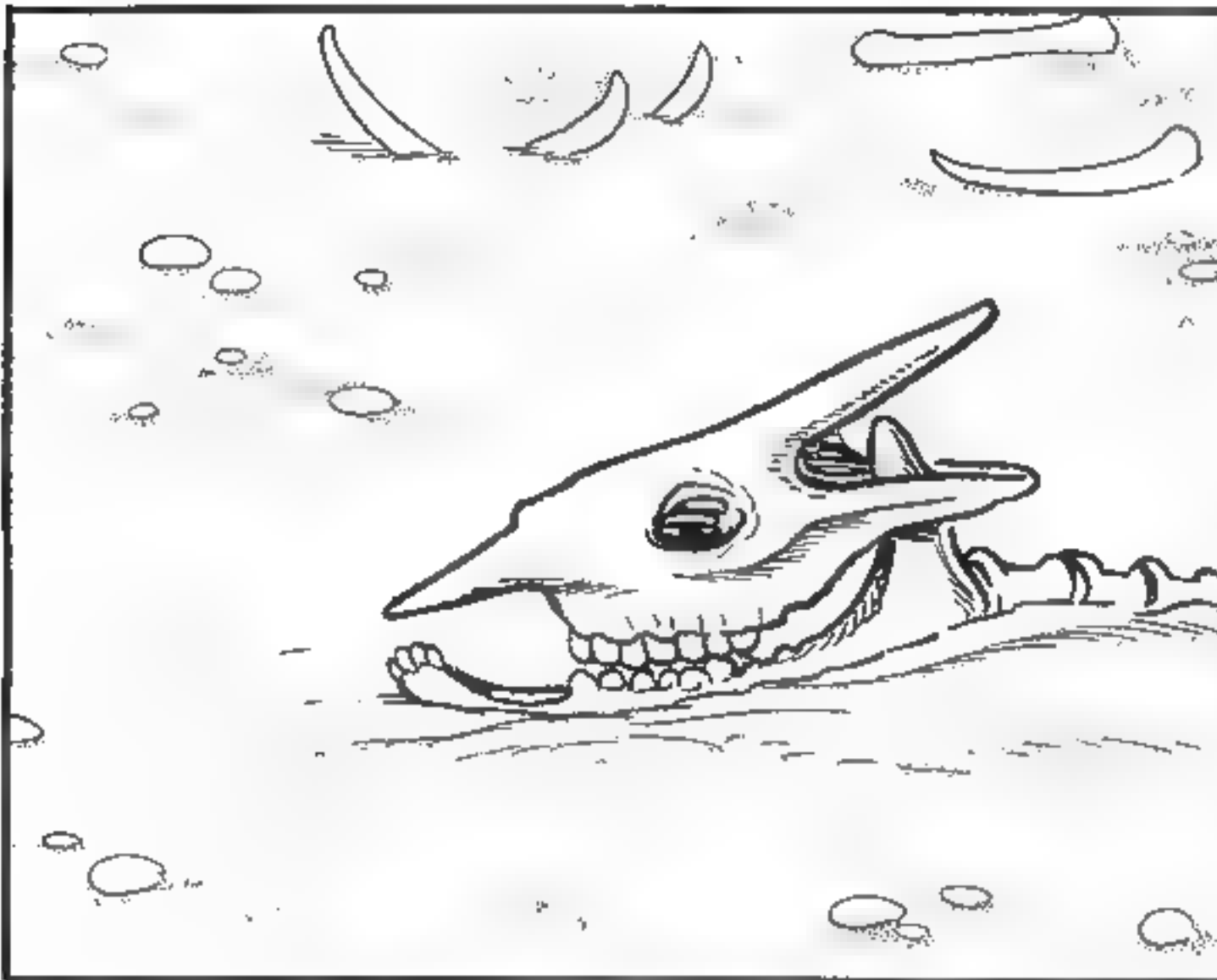
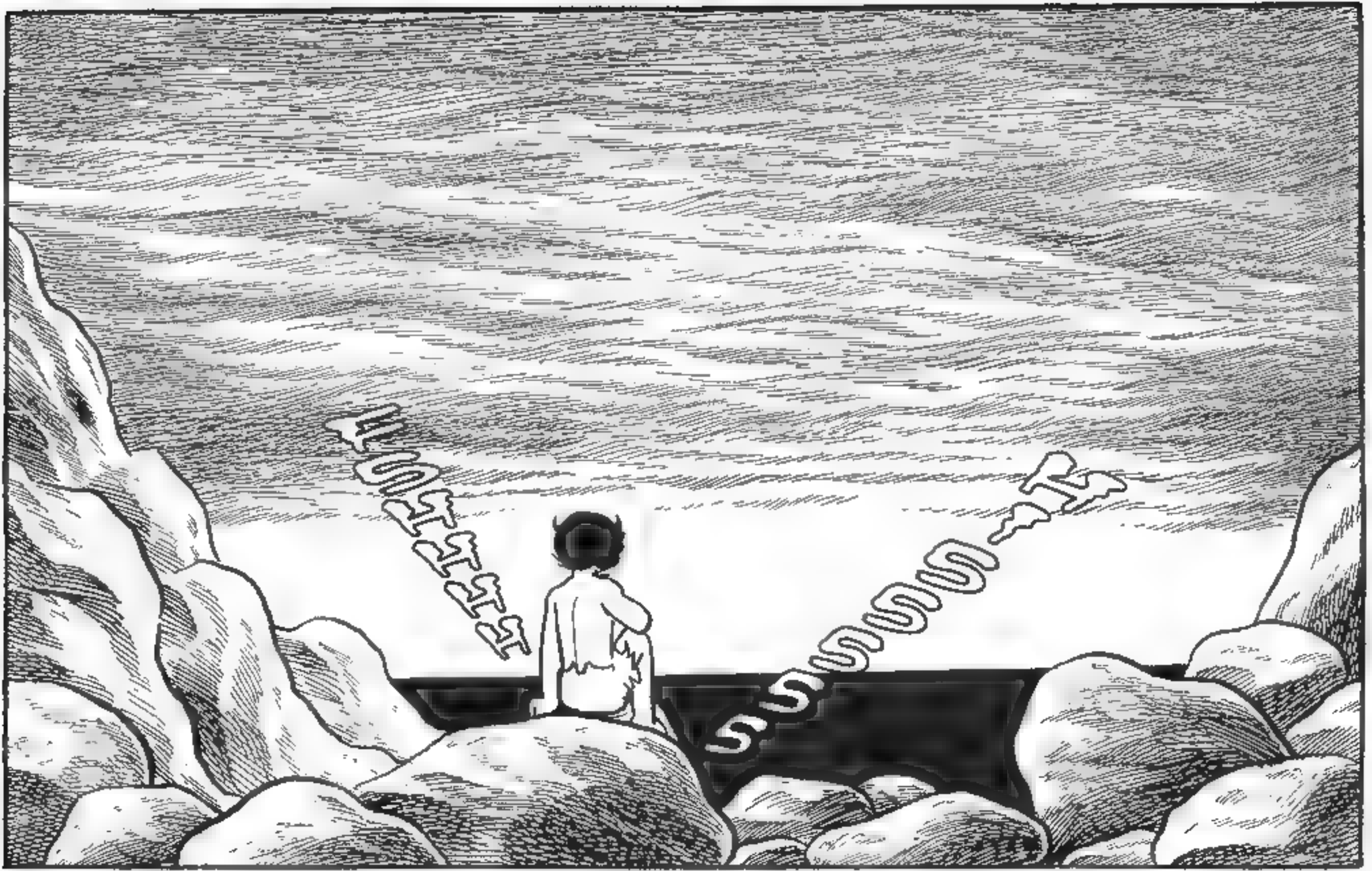
EVERYONE INTO
THAT CREVICE!
WE'LL BE
SHELTERED
THERE FROM
THE WIND
AND RAIN!





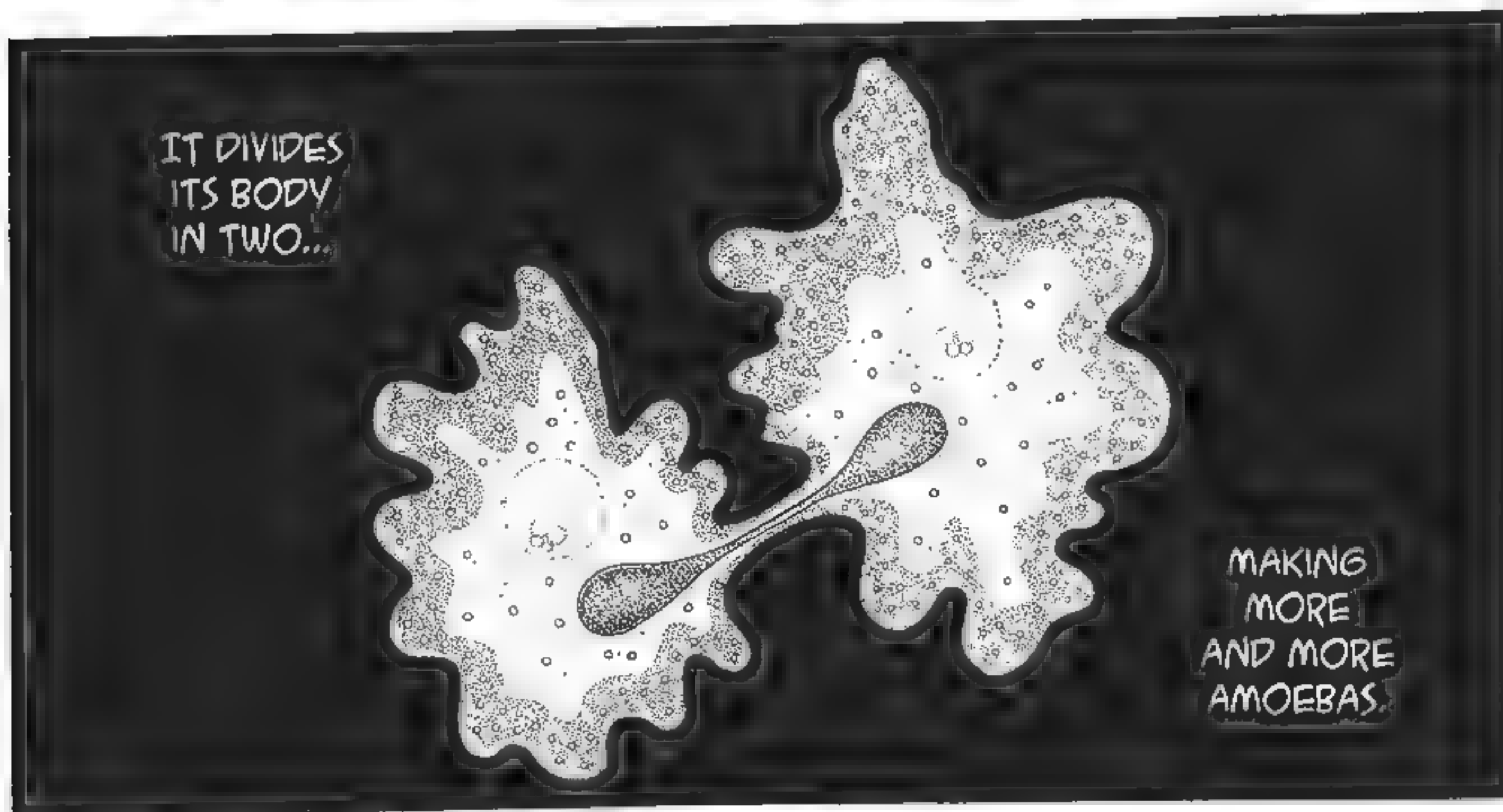








THE LOWLY
AMOEBA
DOESN'T
HAVE THIS
MALE AND
FEMALE CRAP.



IT DIVIDES
ITS BODY
IN TWO...

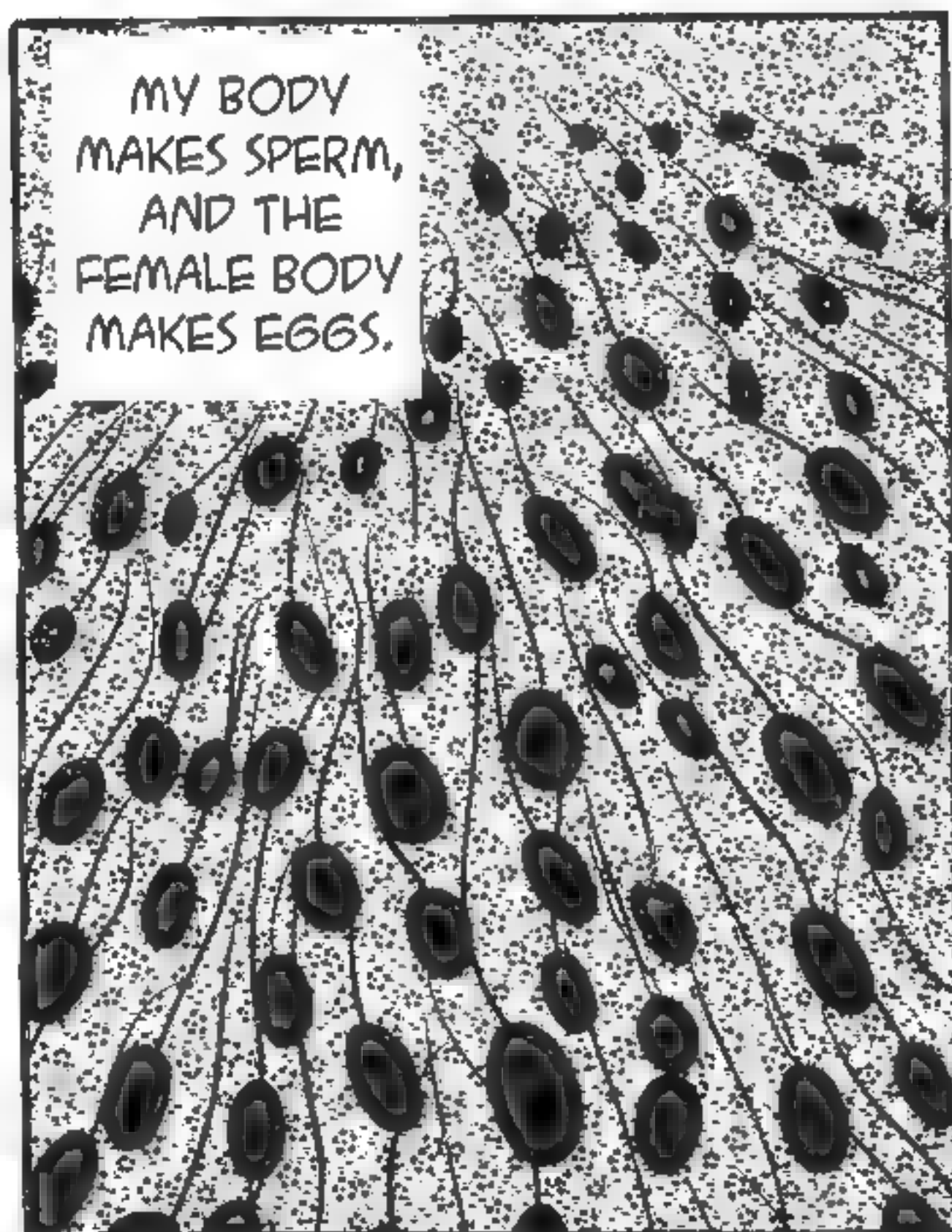
MAKING
MORE
AND MORE
AMOEBAS.



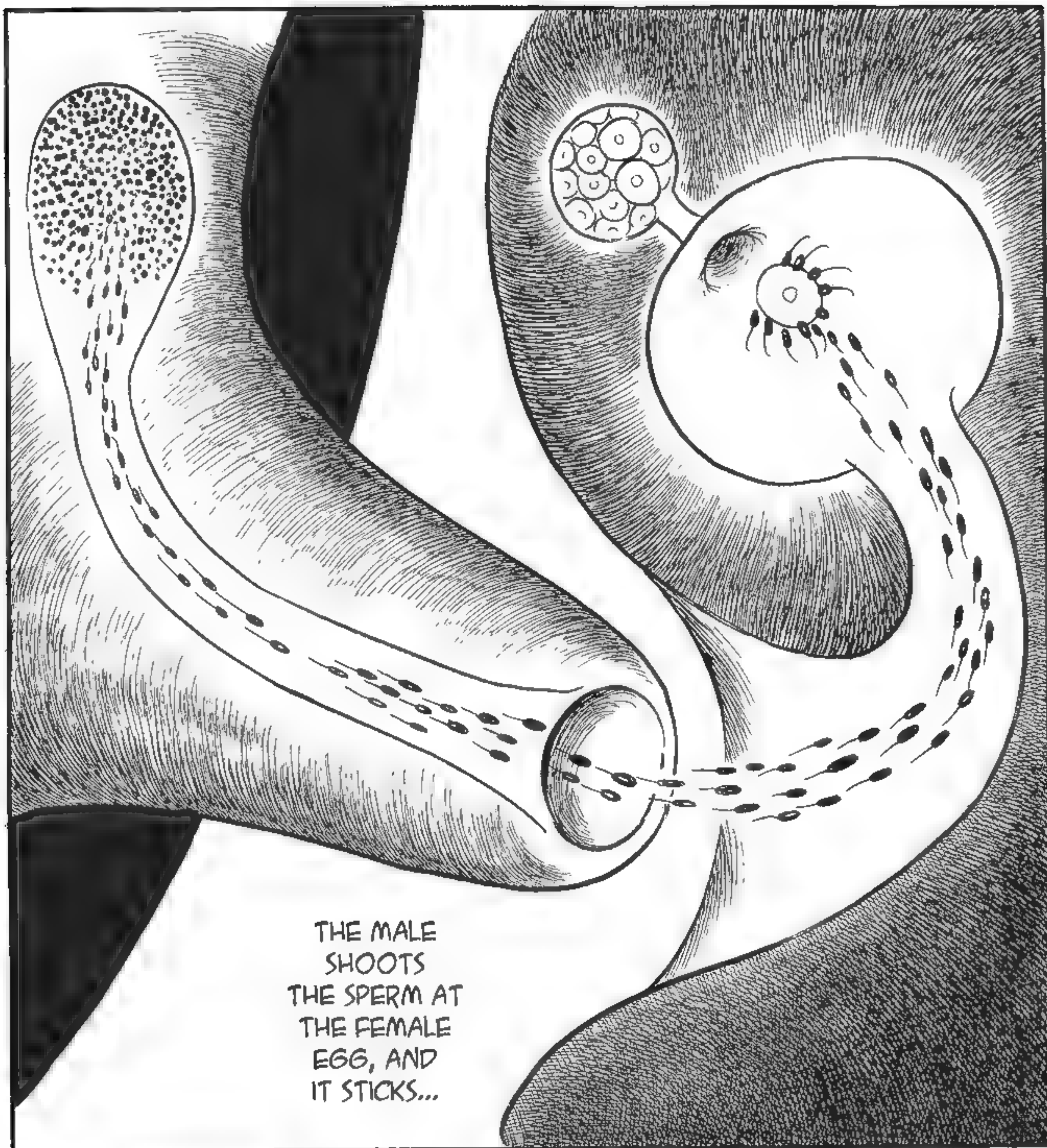
IT'D BE
EASIER IF
HUMANS
COULD DO
THAT, TOO.



SEX!



MY BODY
MAKES SPERM,
AND THE
FEMALE BODY
MAKES EGGS.



THE MALE
SHOOTS
THE SPERM AT
THE FEMALE
EGG, AND
IT STICKS...



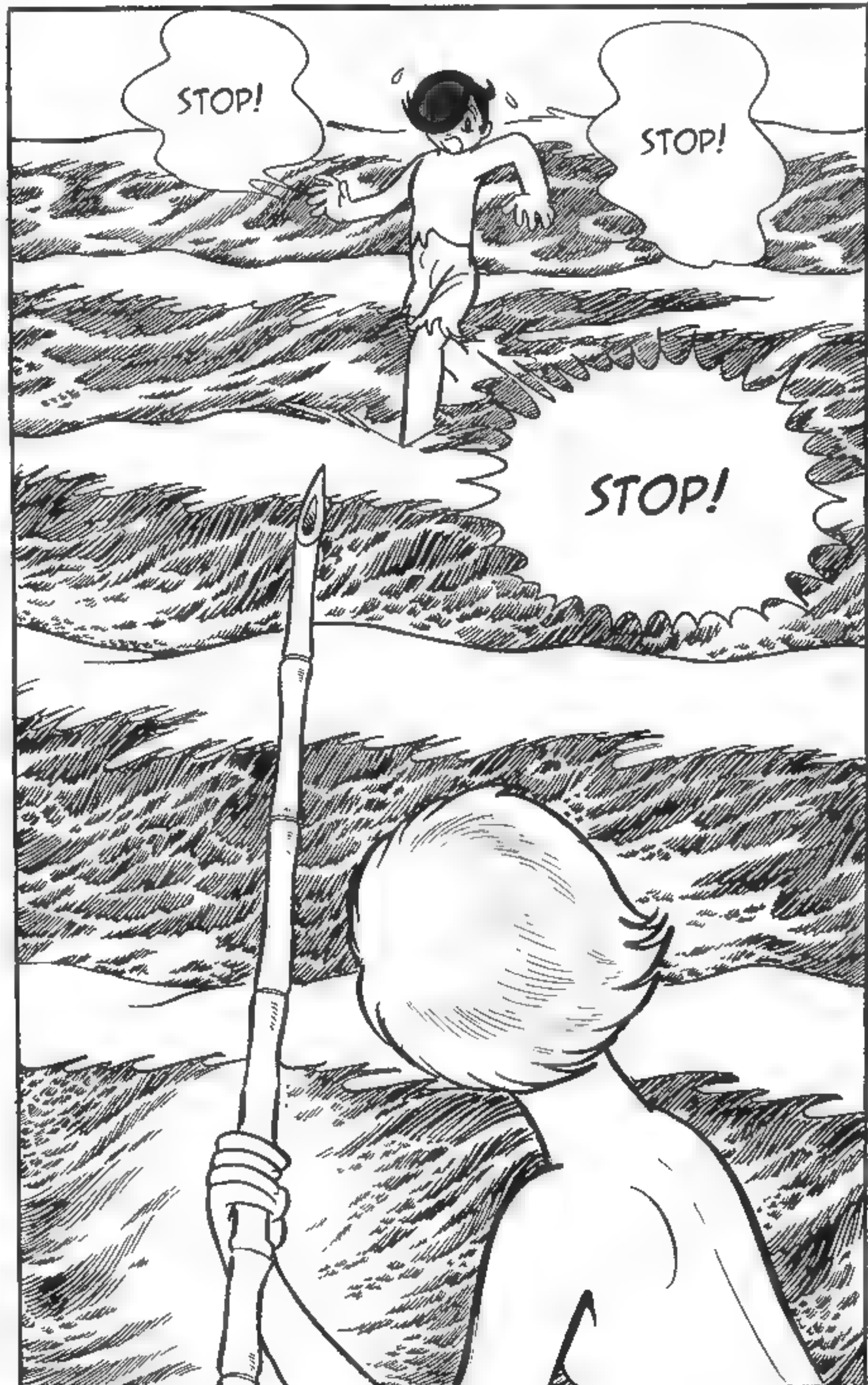
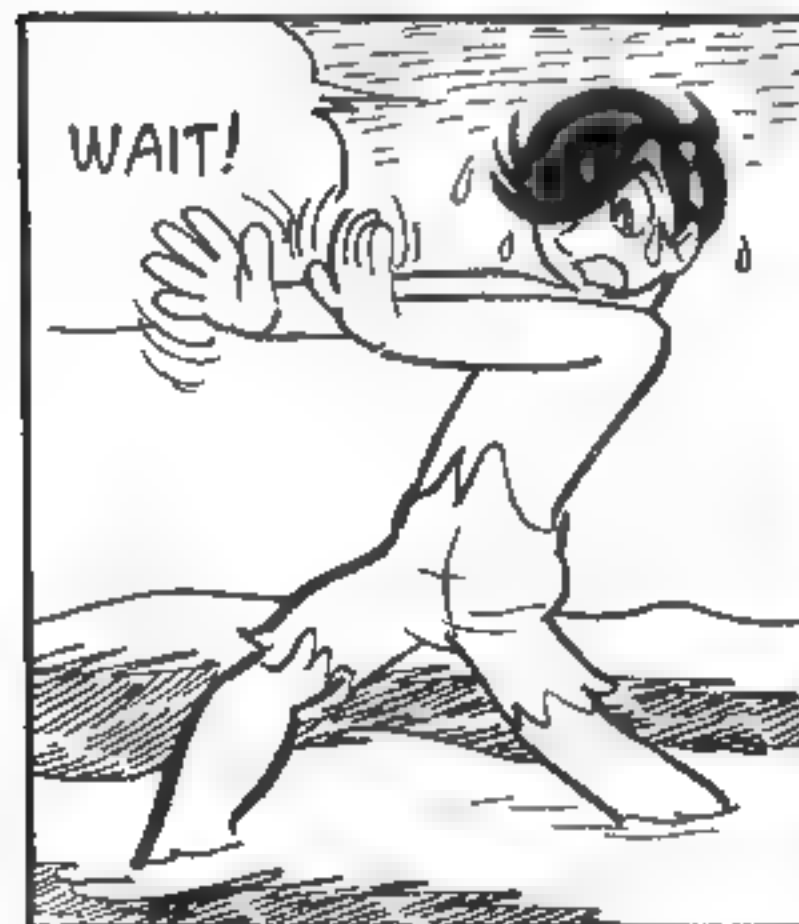
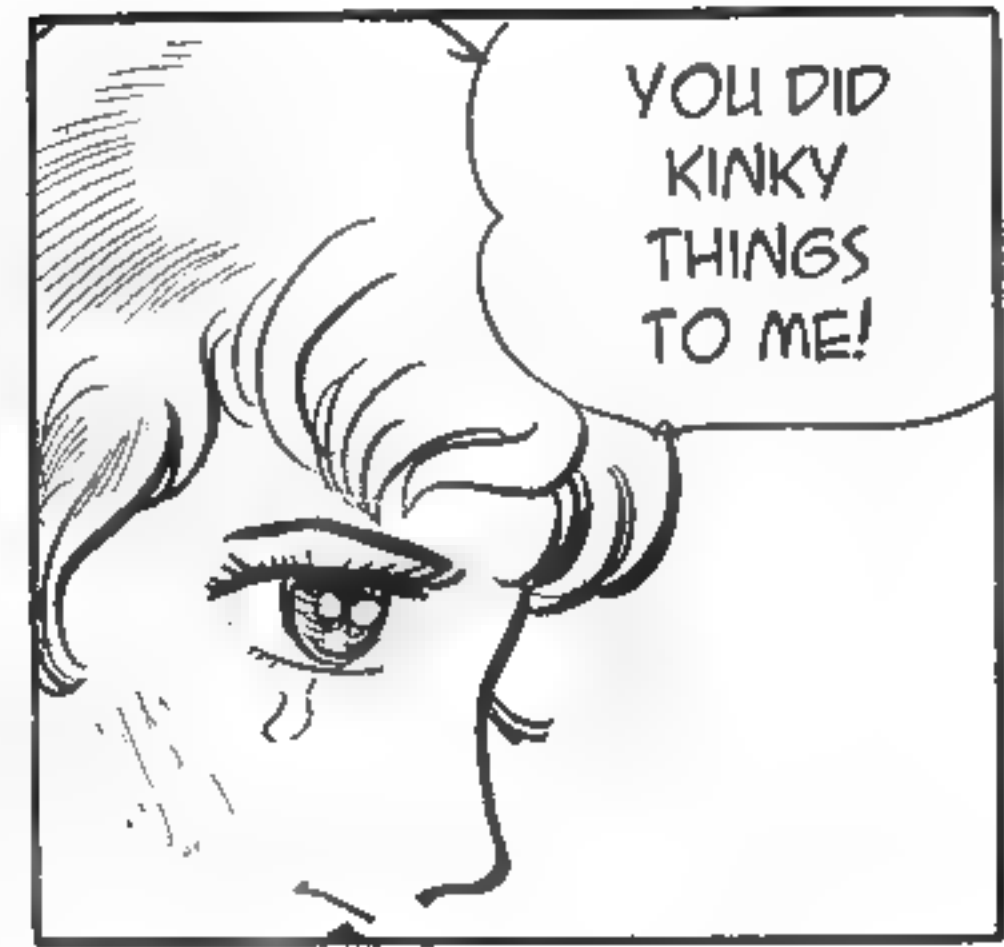
MAKING
AN
EMBRYO.

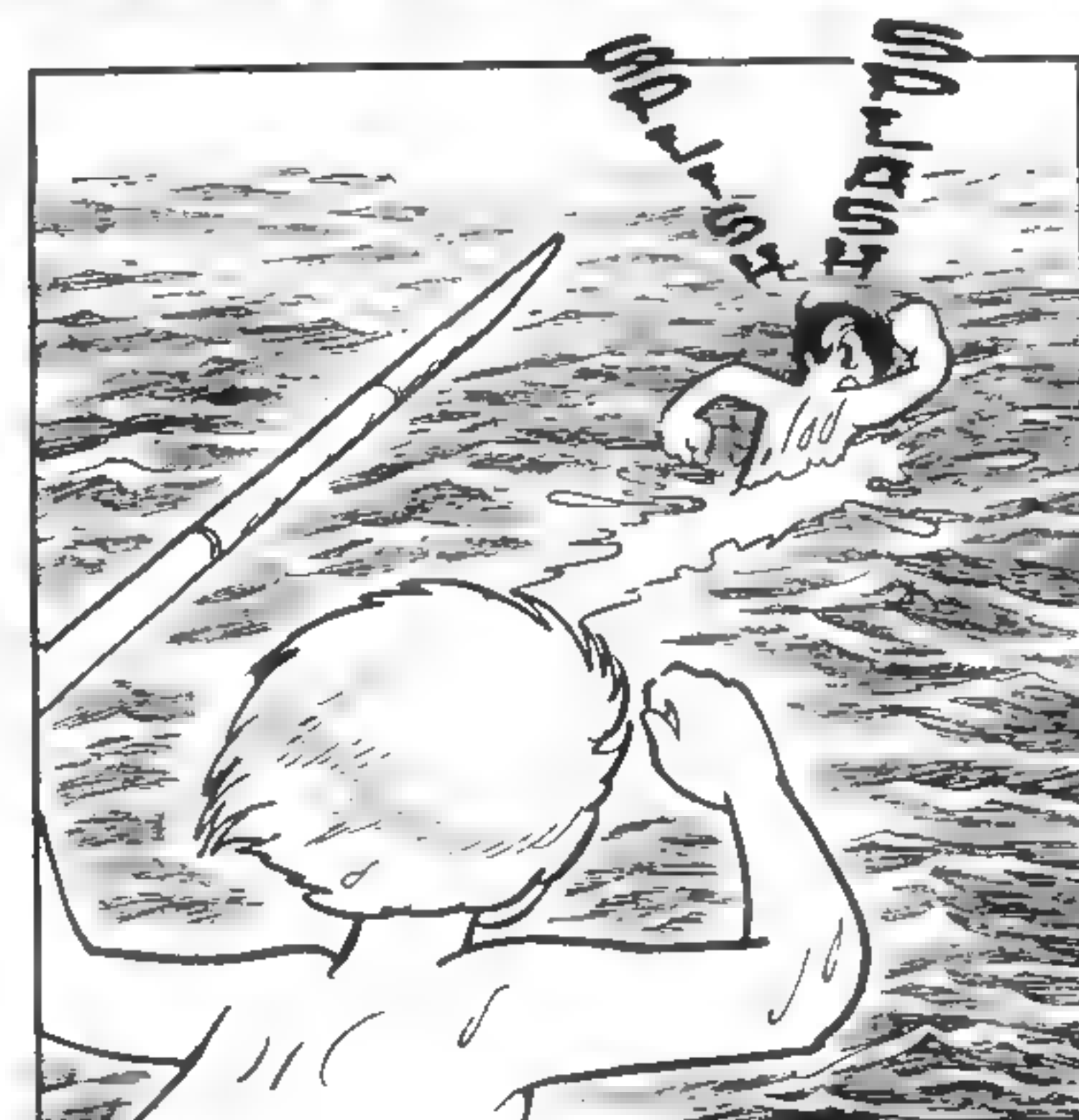
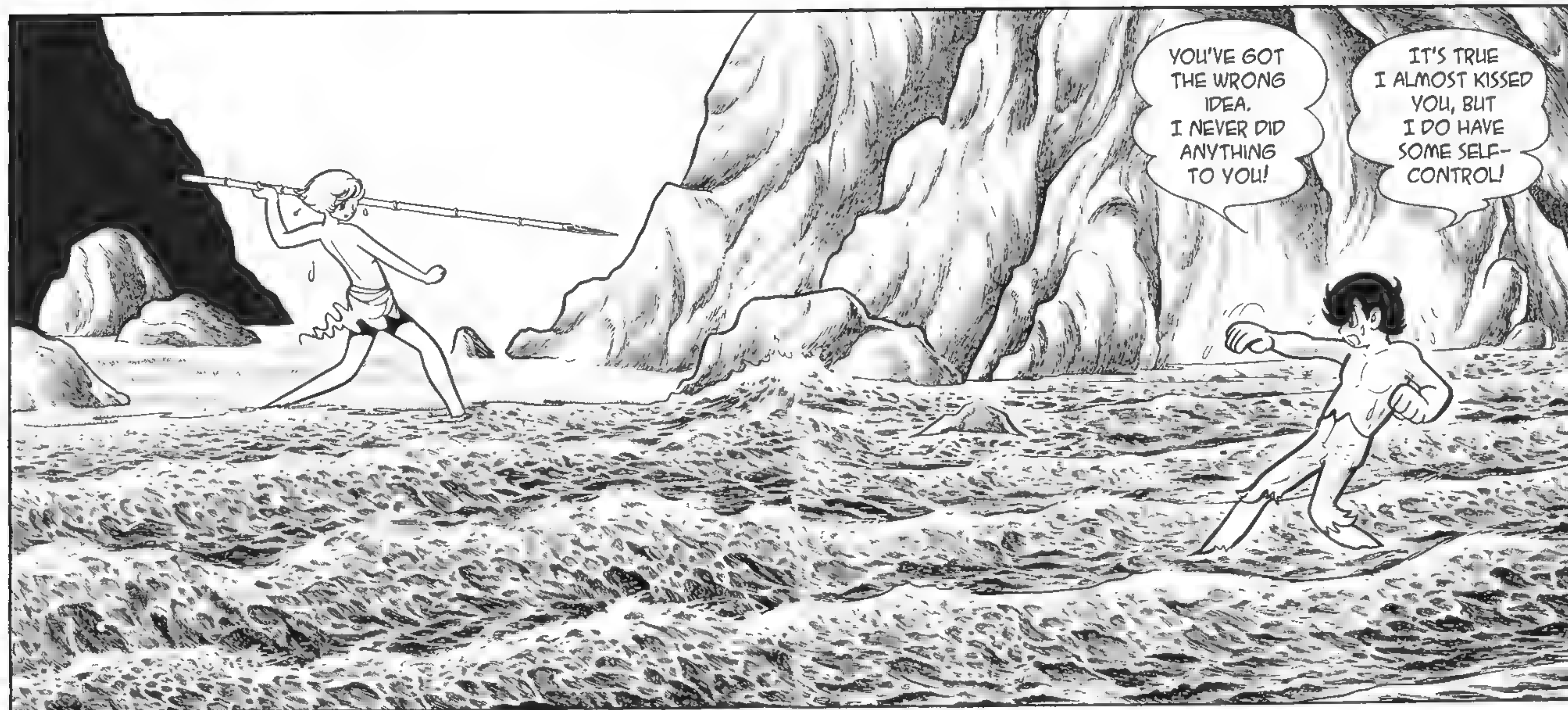
FOR
HUNDREDS
OF
MILLIONS
OF YEARS...

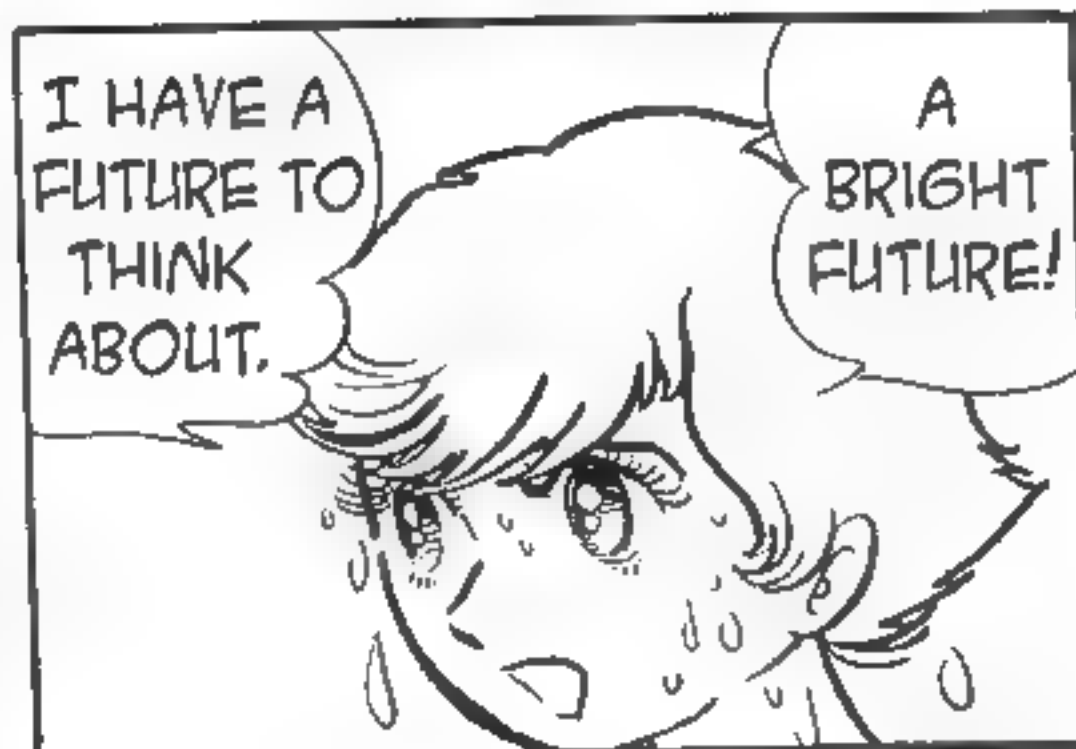
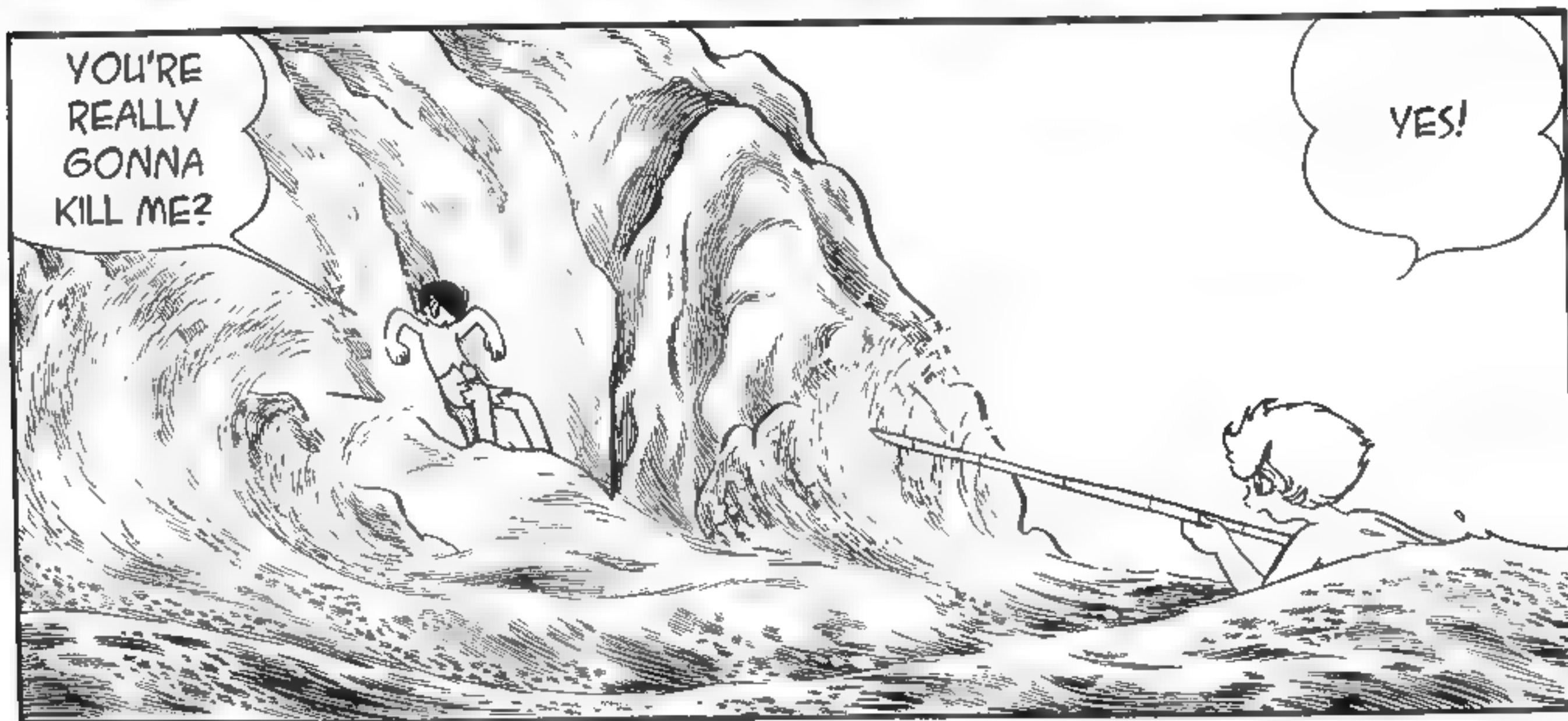
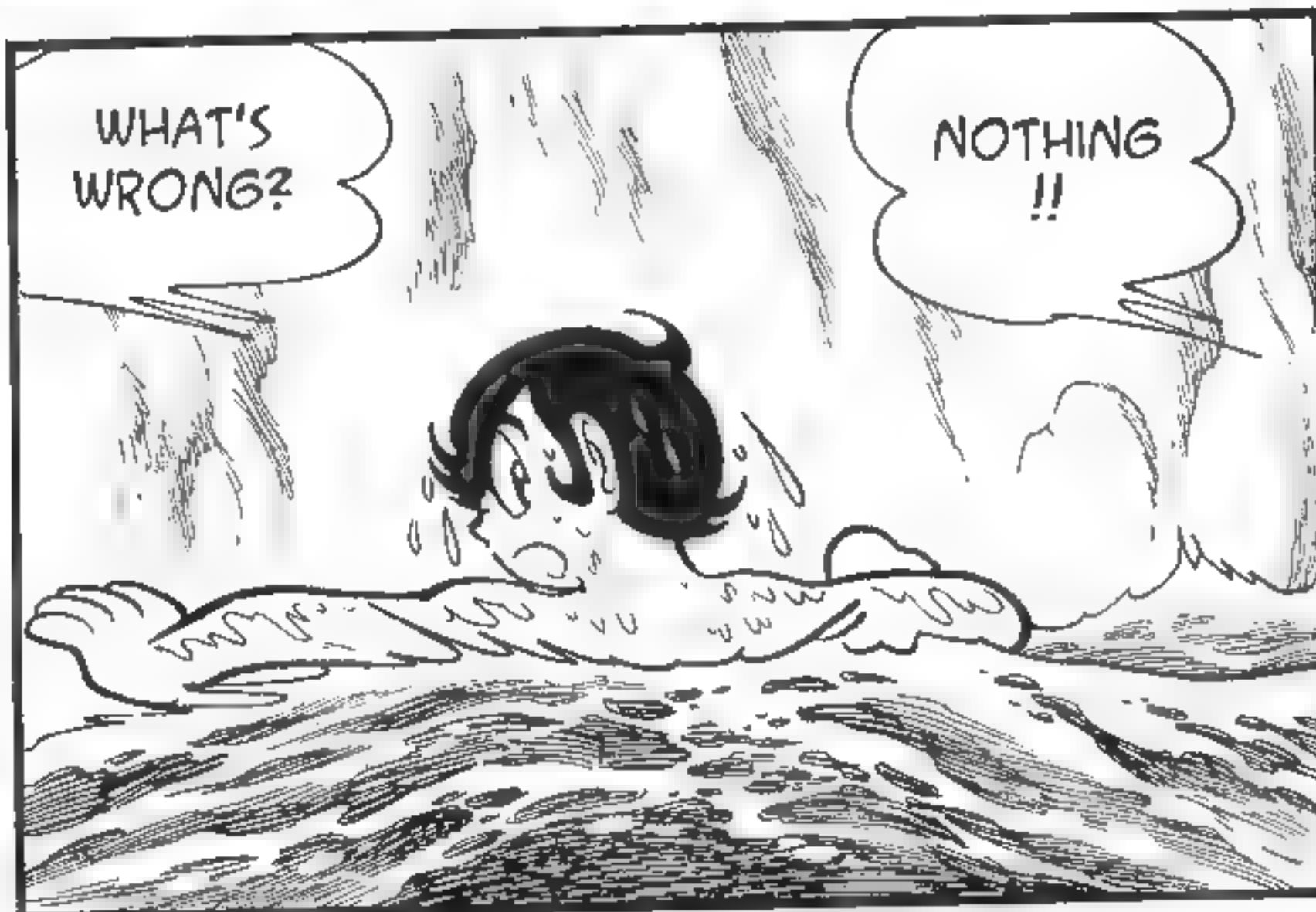
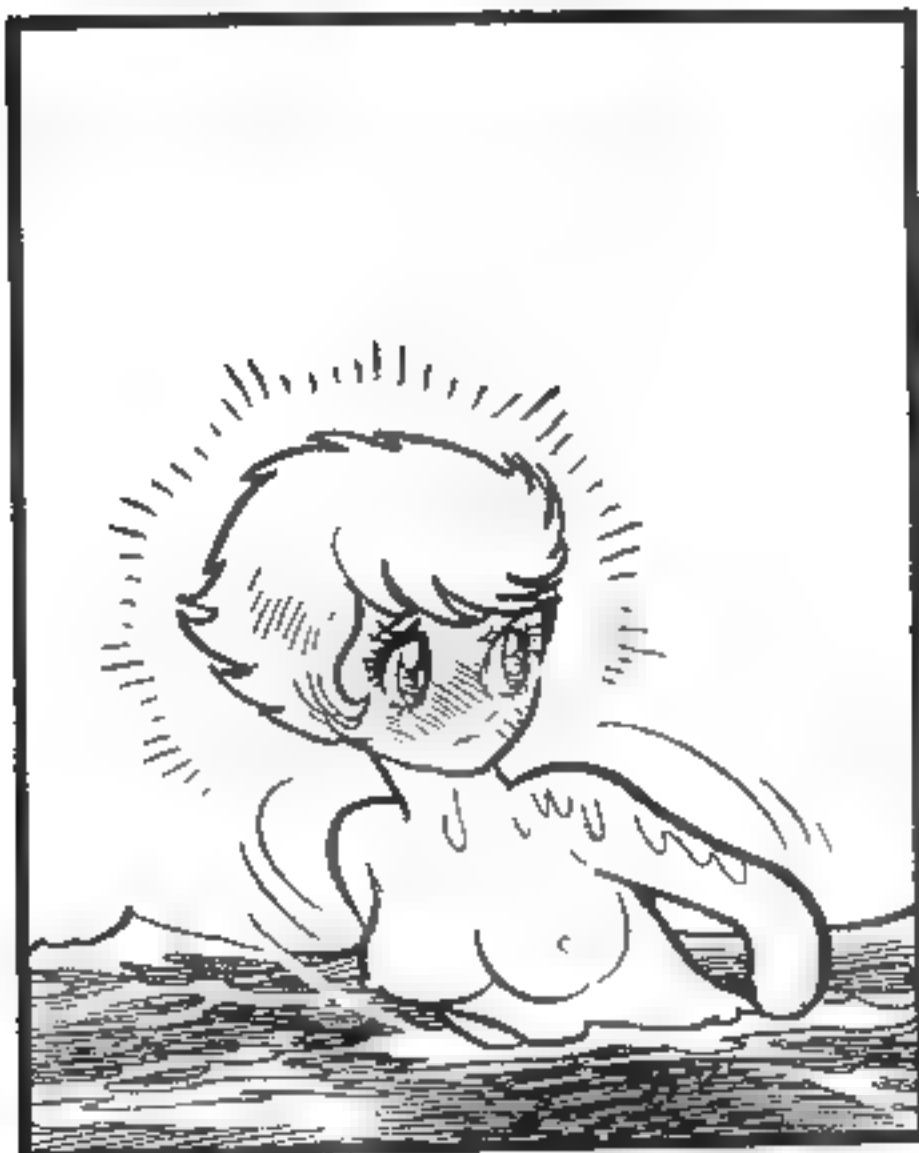
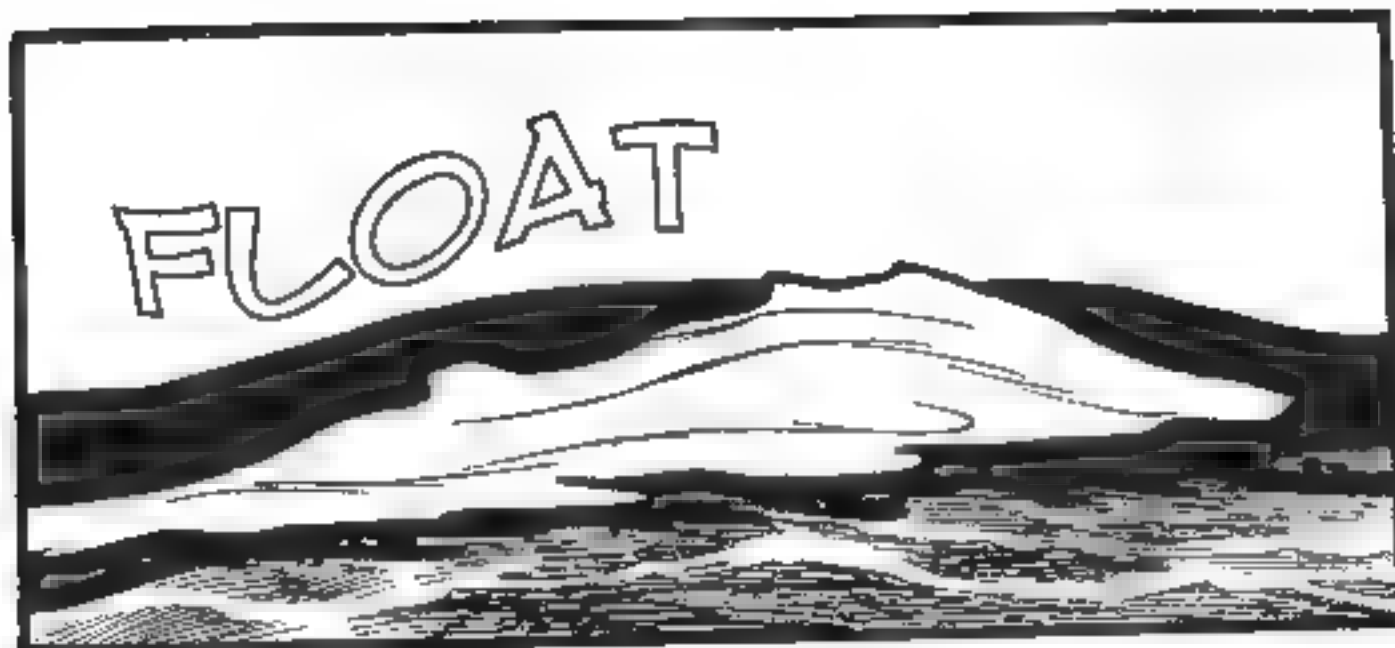


MALES AND
FEMALES
HAVE
REPEATED
THE
PROCESS.











A FUTURE...



STUDY HARD
IN THE U.S.
AND BECOME
A WORLD-CLASS
PHOTO-
GRAPHER!

IF YOU NEED
MORE MONEY,
JUST LET ME
KNOW!

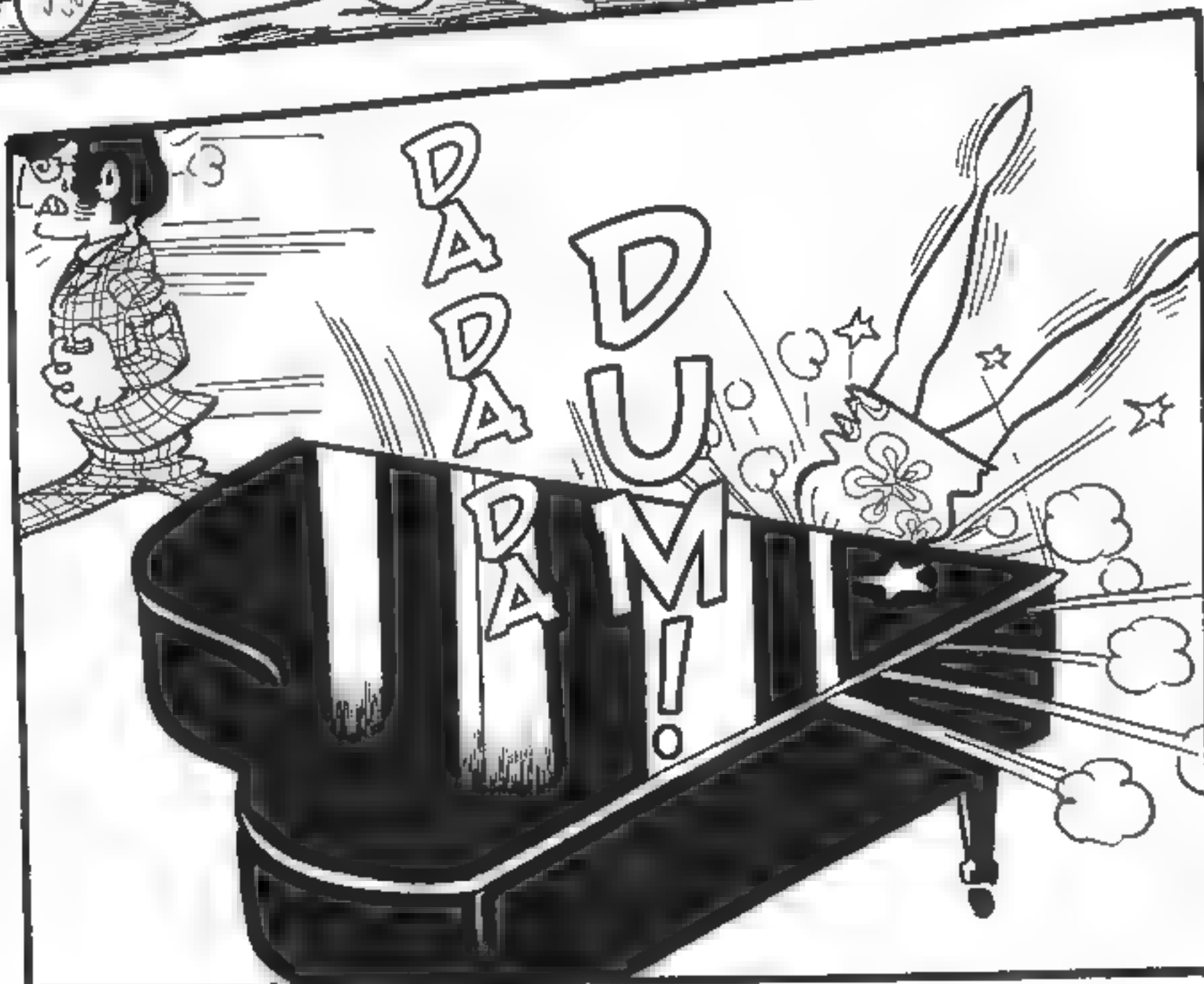
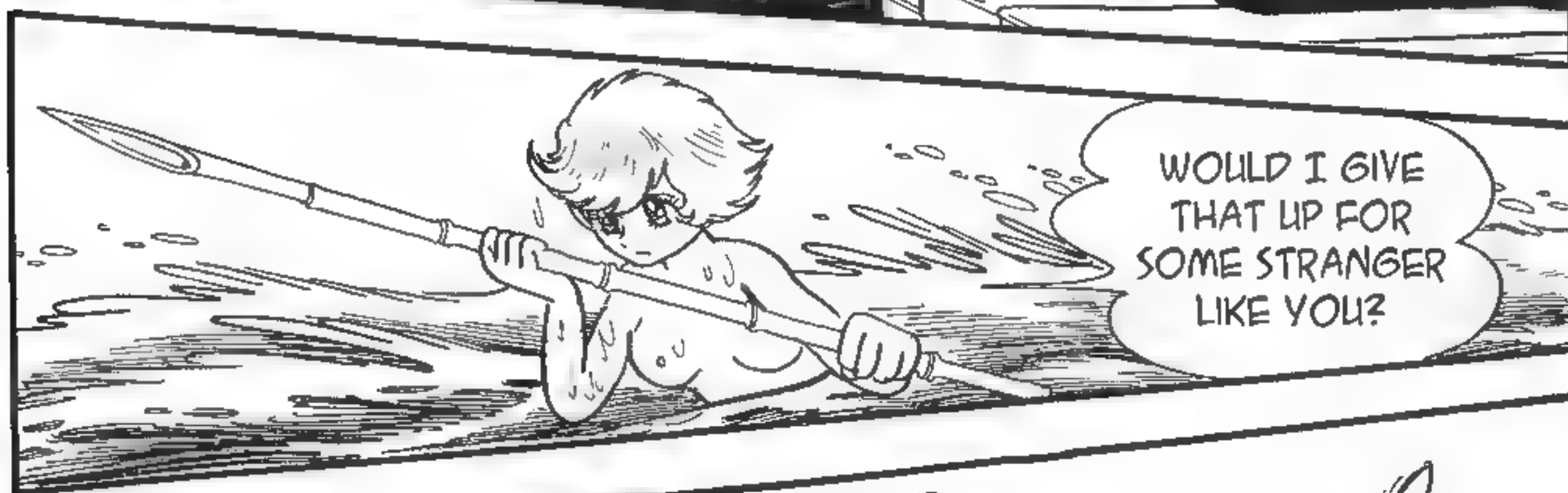
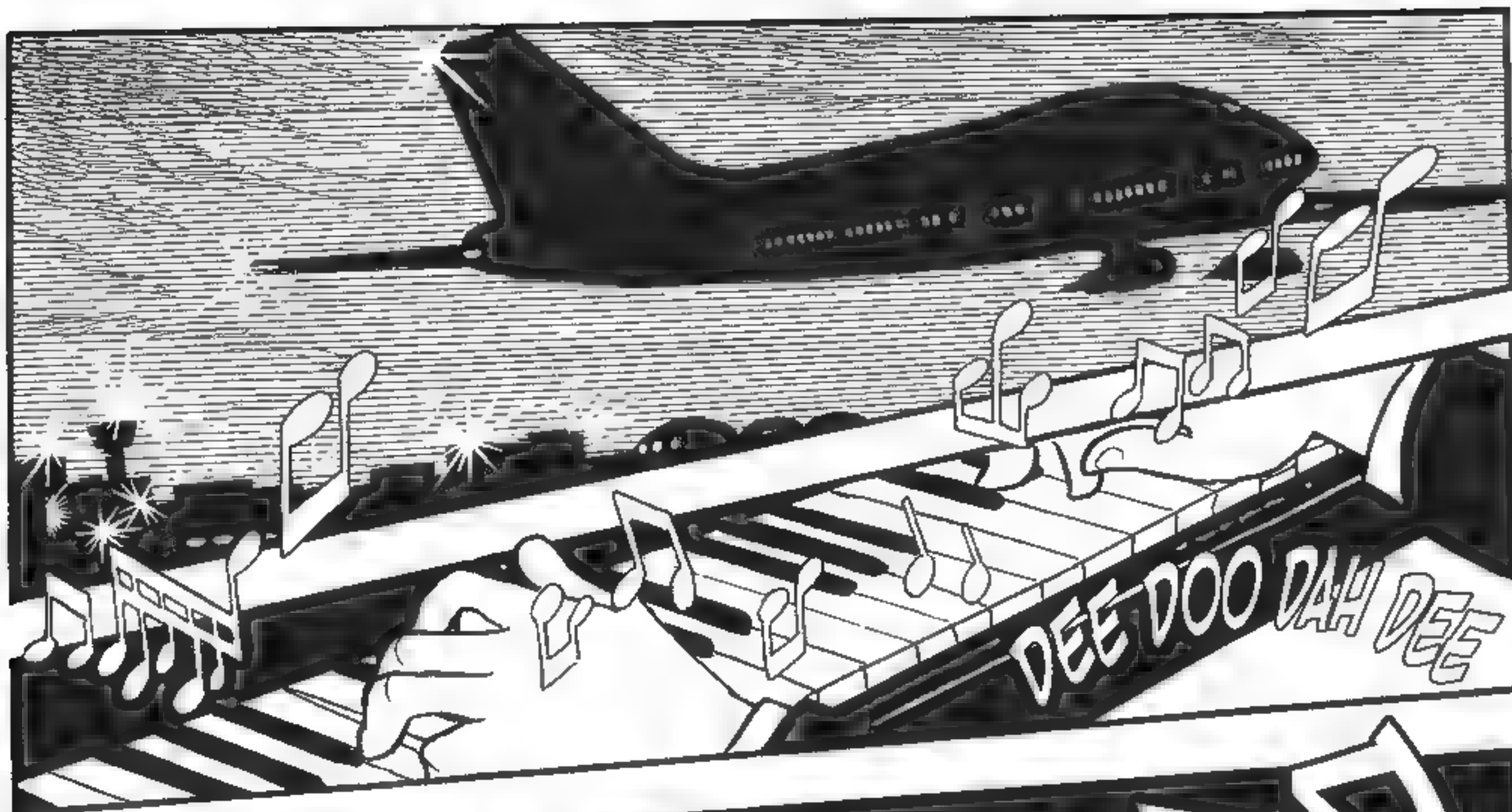
I'LL
DO MY
BEST,
BOSS!

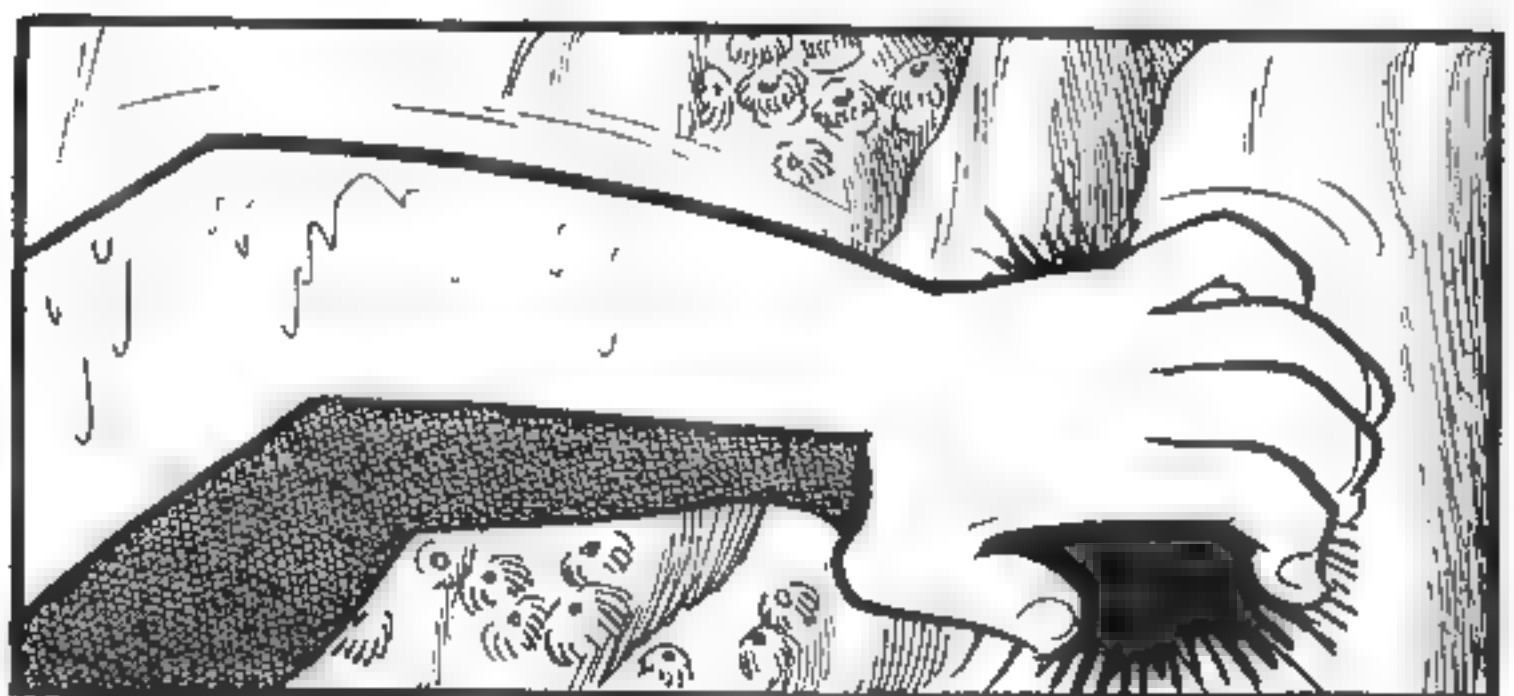
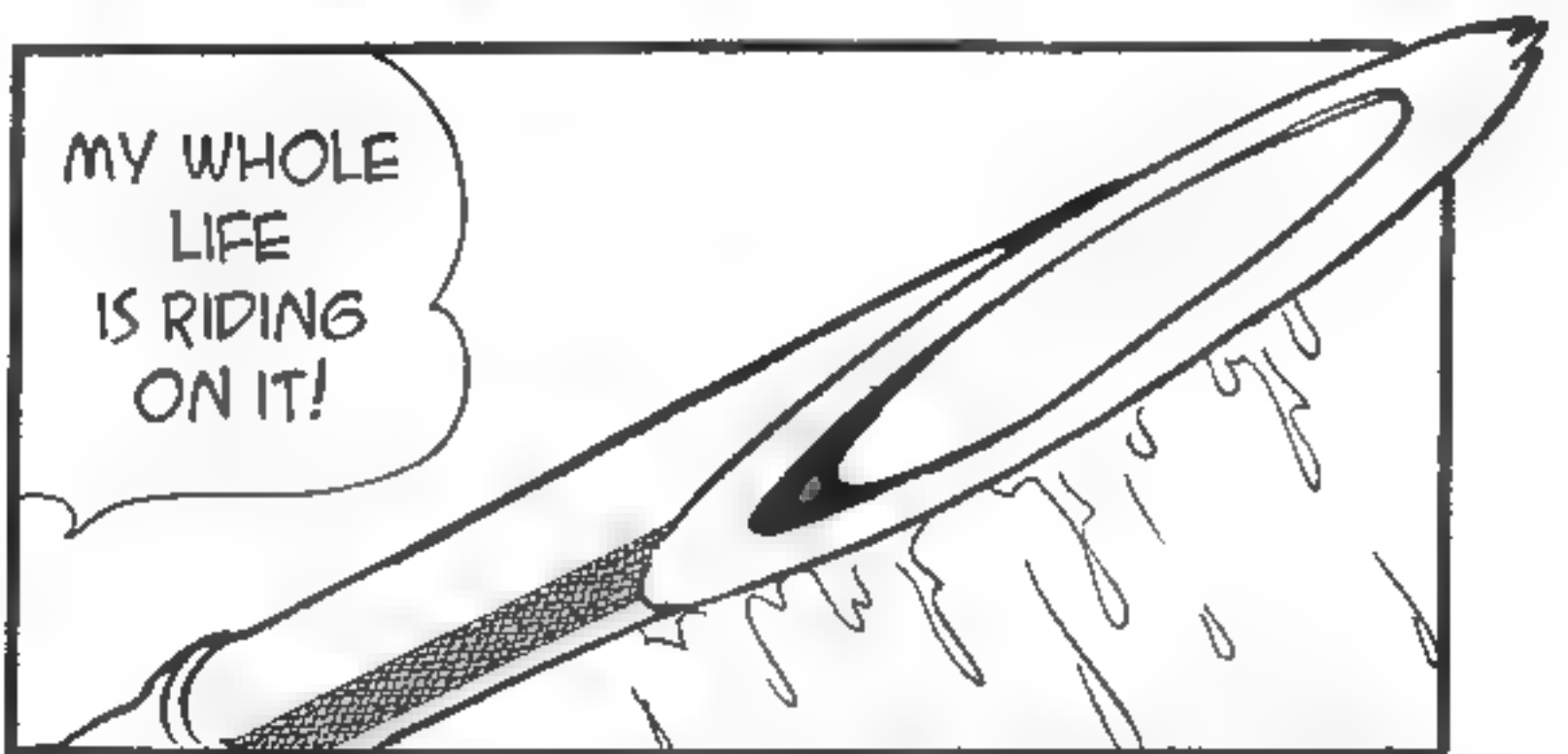
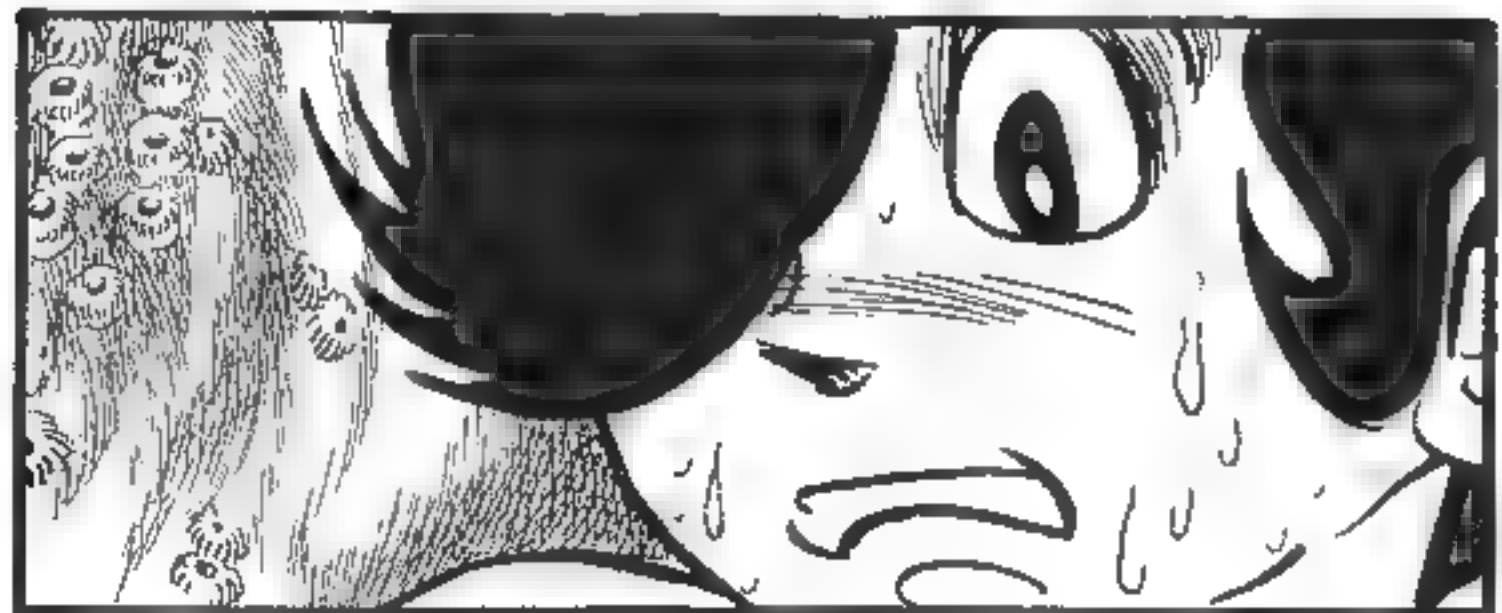
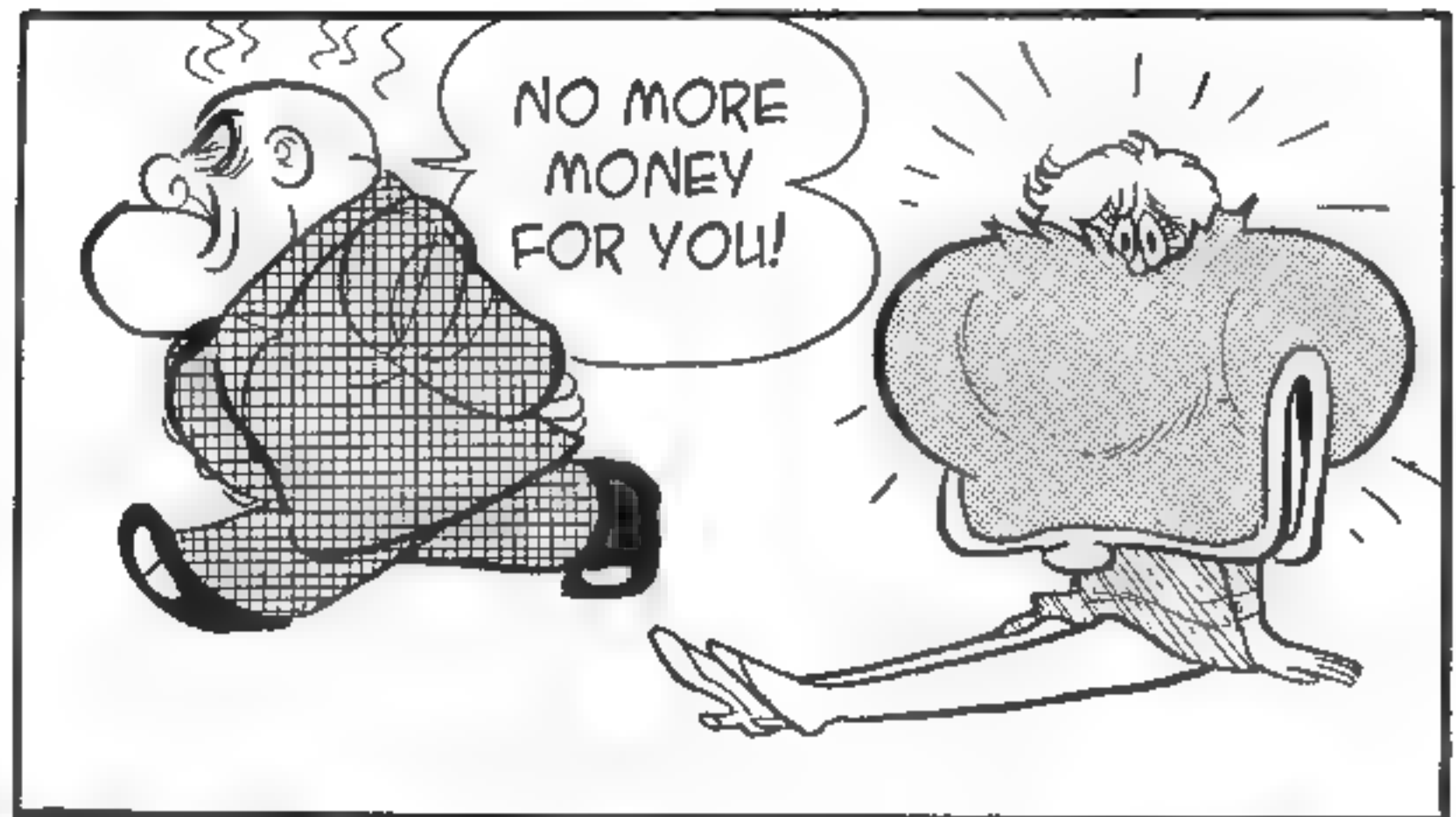


TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF,
NAOMI.

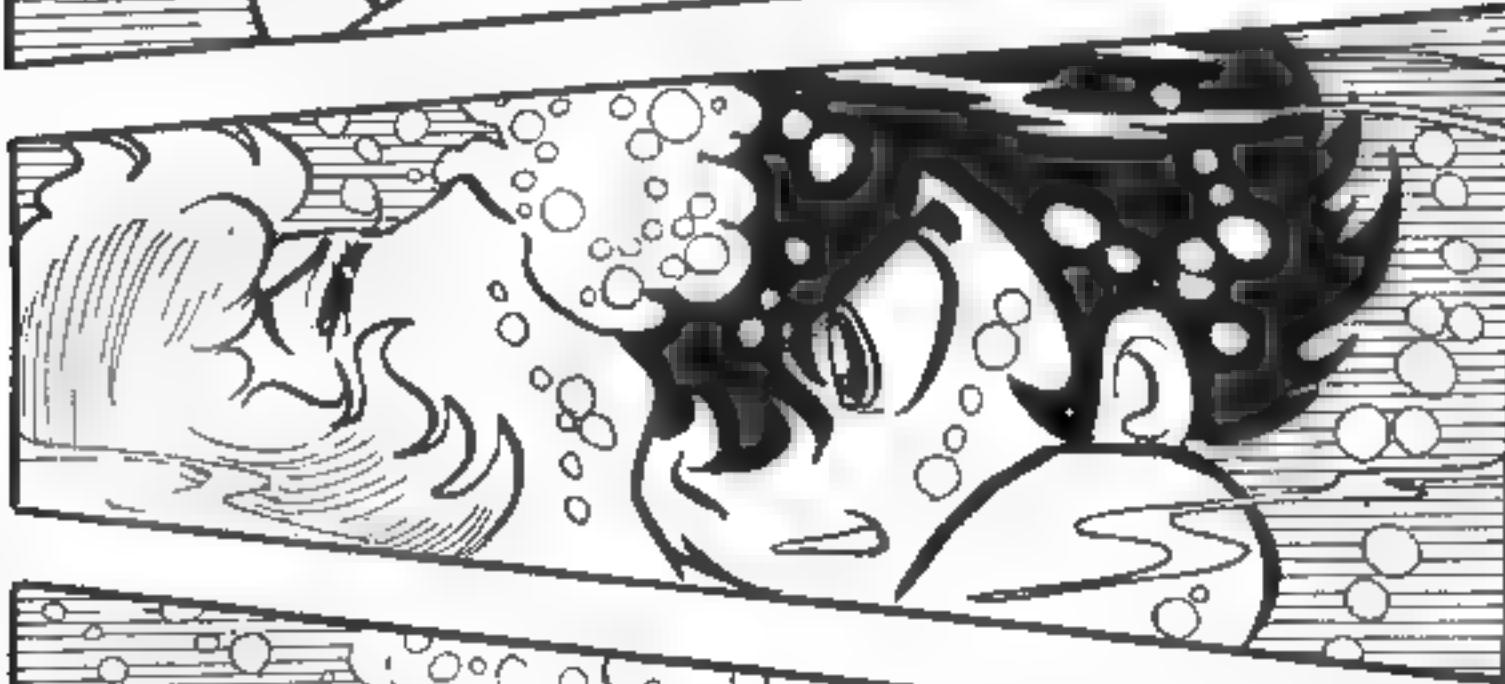
LET'S GET
MARRIED
WHEN YOU
RETURN.

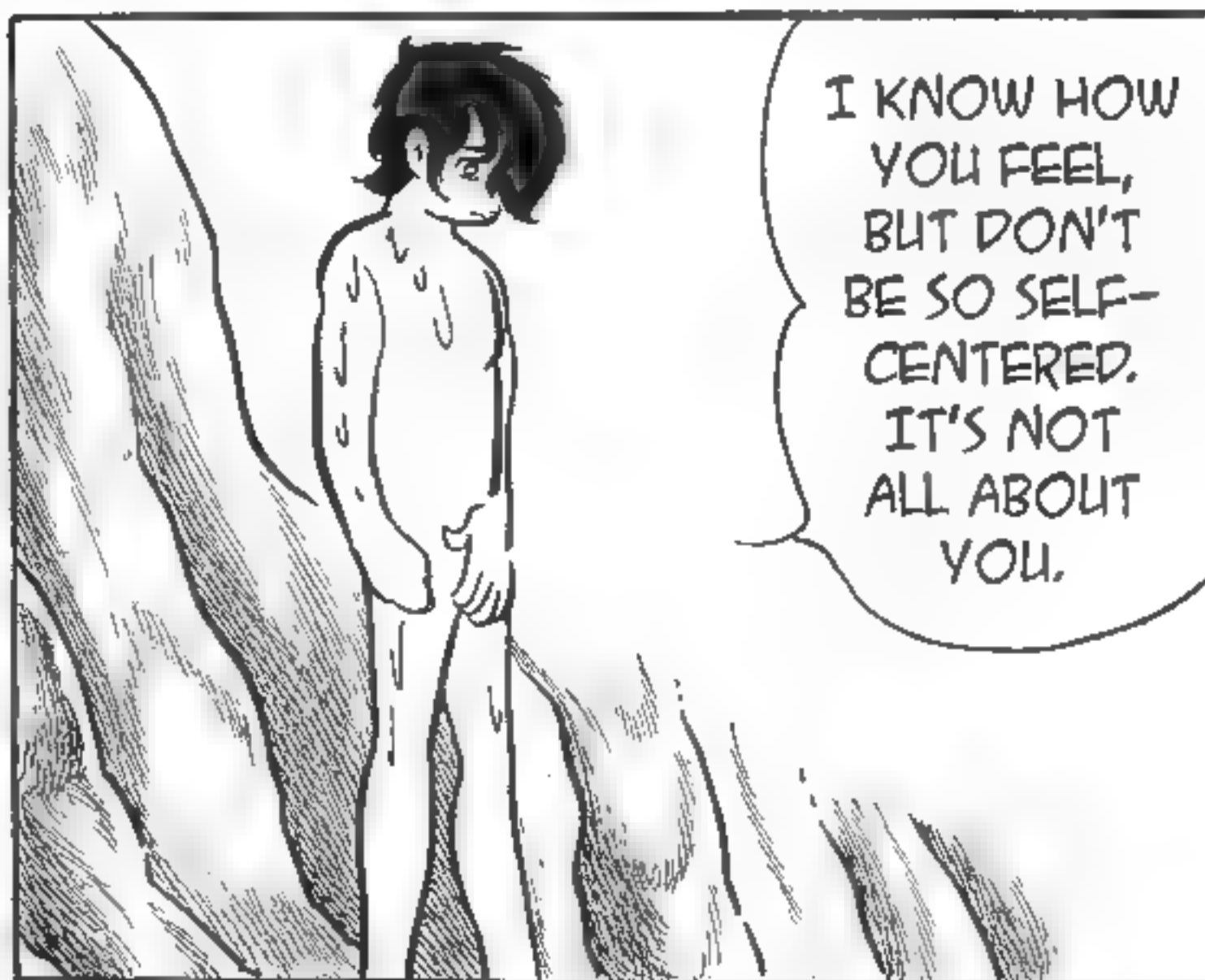
I'LL WRITE
A CONCERTO
FOR YOU
WHILE I WAIT.

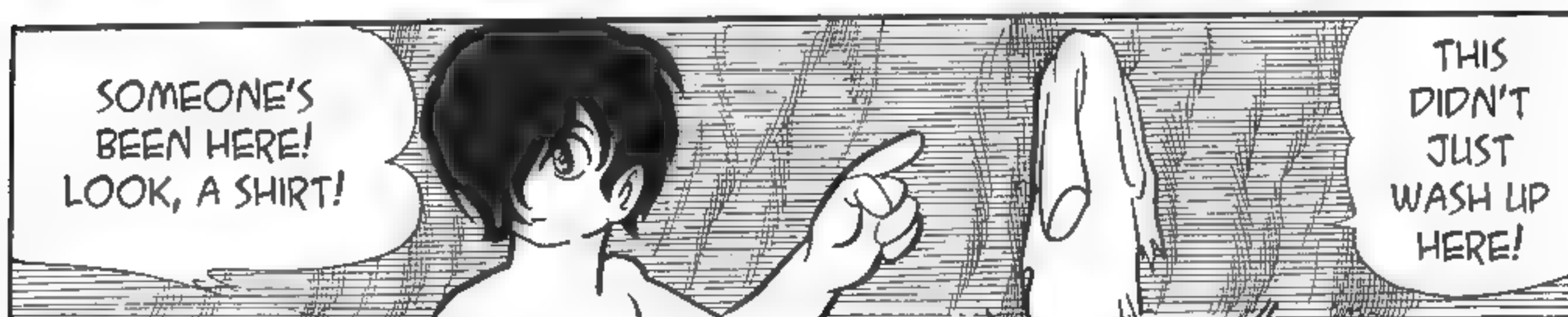


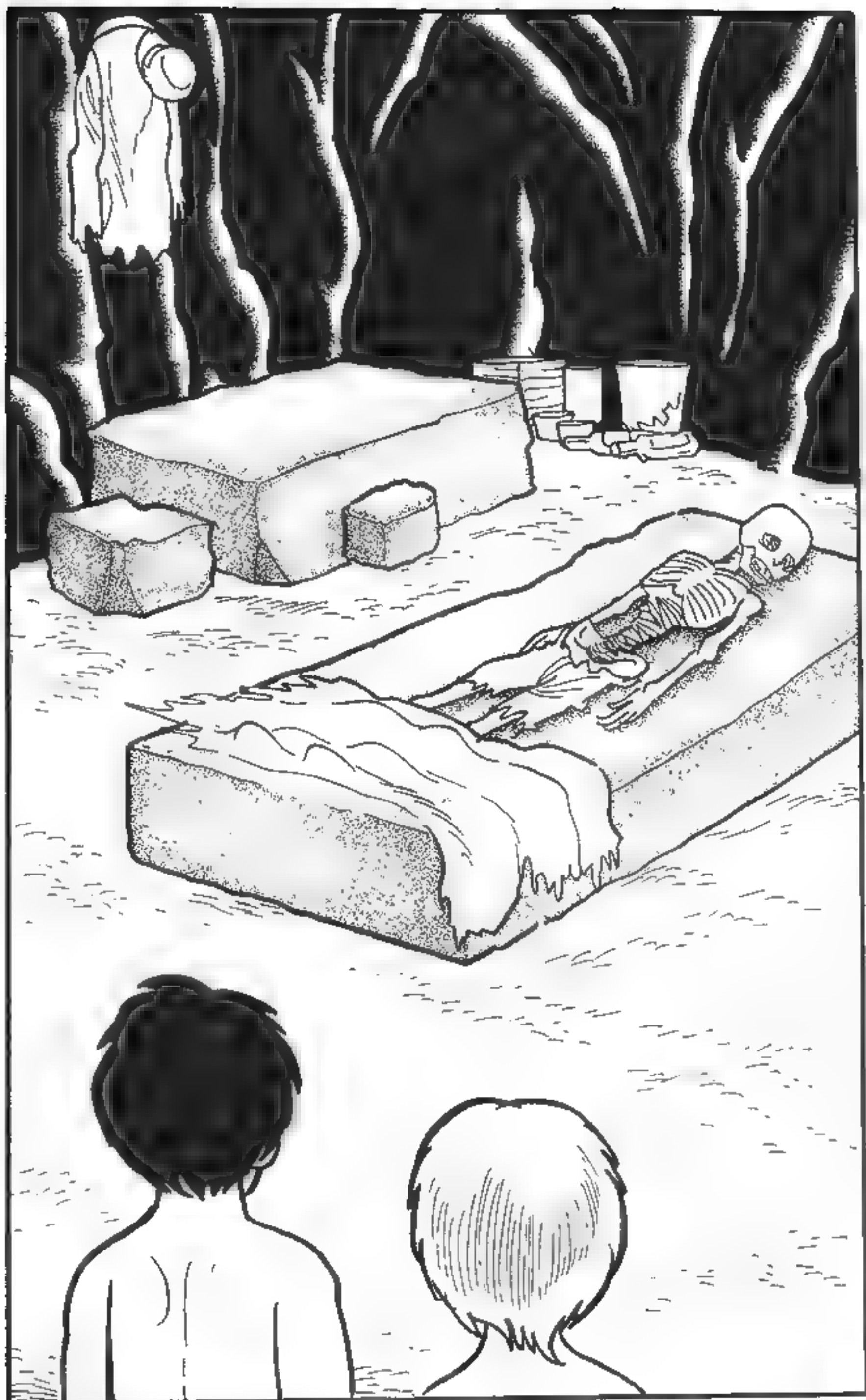












TO THE
PERSON
WHO
DISCOVERS
MY
REMAINS:

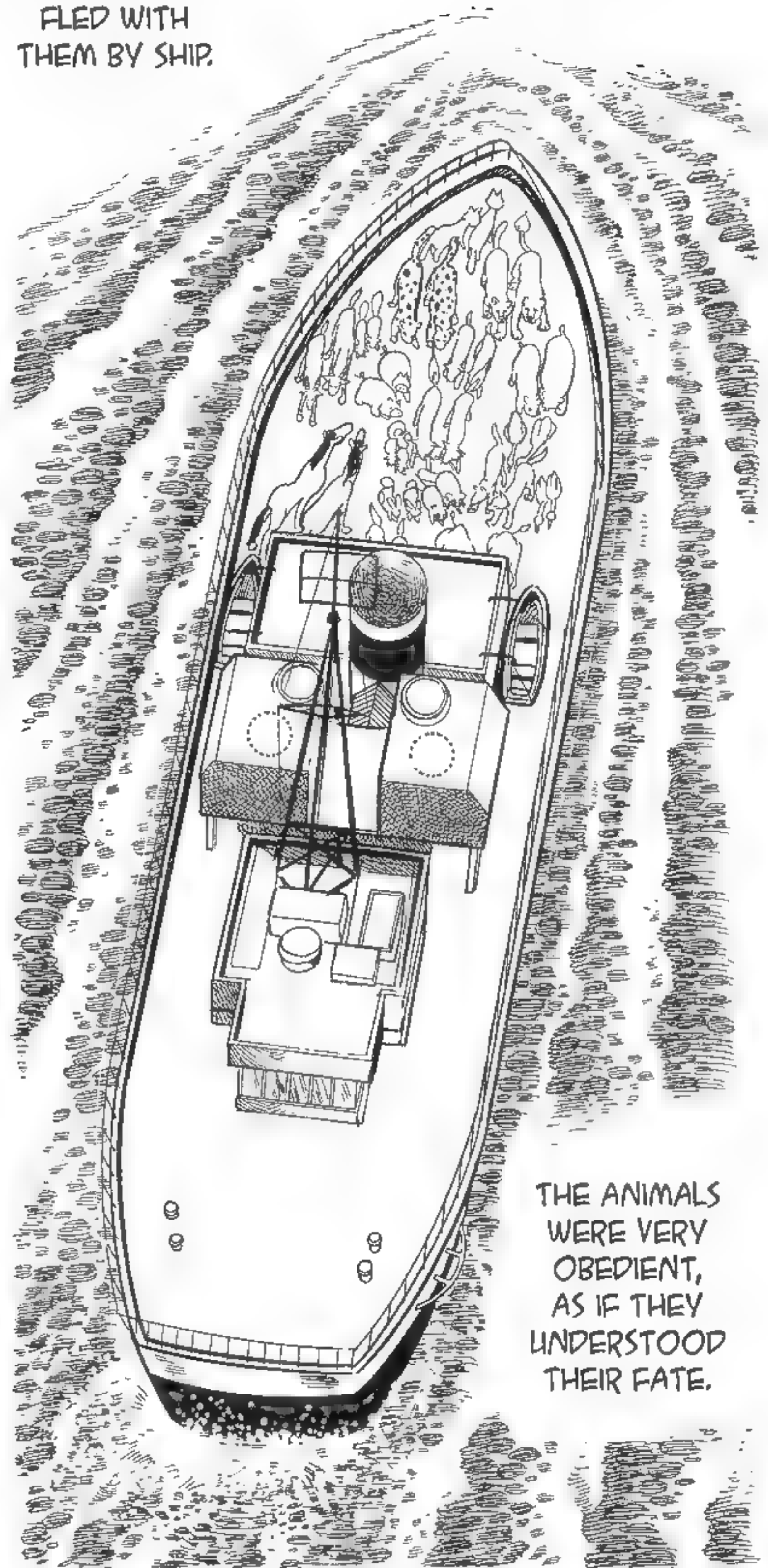
I AM
KAZUYOSHI
FUKUMOTO,
HEAD ZOOKEEPER
OF THE HANSHIN
ZOO IN KOBE.

THE ANIMALS
HERE ARE THE
DESCENDANTS
OF THOSE I
BROUGHT TO
THIS ISLAND.

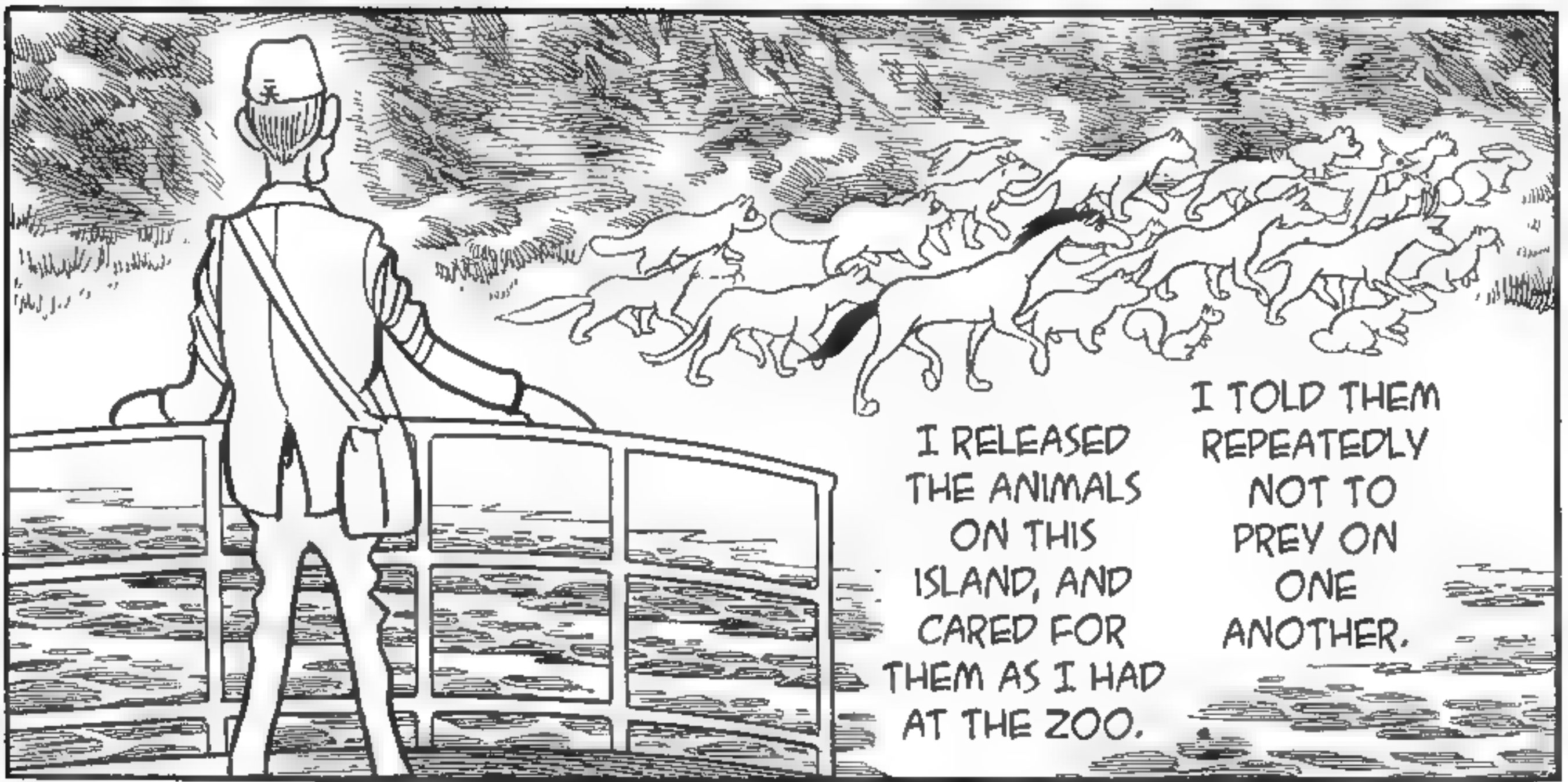
DURING THAT MOST
UNPLEASANT WAR,
THE ARMY ORDERED US
TO POISON
THE ANIMALS.
I LOST A LOT OF
SLEEP FROM WORRY.

IN THE END,
I GATHERED A
SMALL GROUP OF
MALE AND FEMALE
ANIMALS AND
FLED WITH
THEM BY SHIP.

AS A JOKE,
I NAMED IT
"NOAH'S ARK."



THE ANIMALS
WERE VERY
OBEDIENT,
AS IF THEY
UNDERSTOOD
THEIR FATE.



I RELEASED THE ANIMALS ON THIS ISLAND, AND CARED FOR THEM AS I HAD AT THE ZOO.

I TOLD THEM REPEATEDLY NOT TO PREY ON ONE ANOTHER.

WHEN YOU SPEAK TO ANIMALS FROM THE HEART, THEY HEAR YOU.

THE ANIMALS UNDERSTOOD, AND THEY LIVED TOGETHER PEACEFULLY.

SOON, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANIMAL, BIRD, OR HUMAN ON THIS ISLAND.



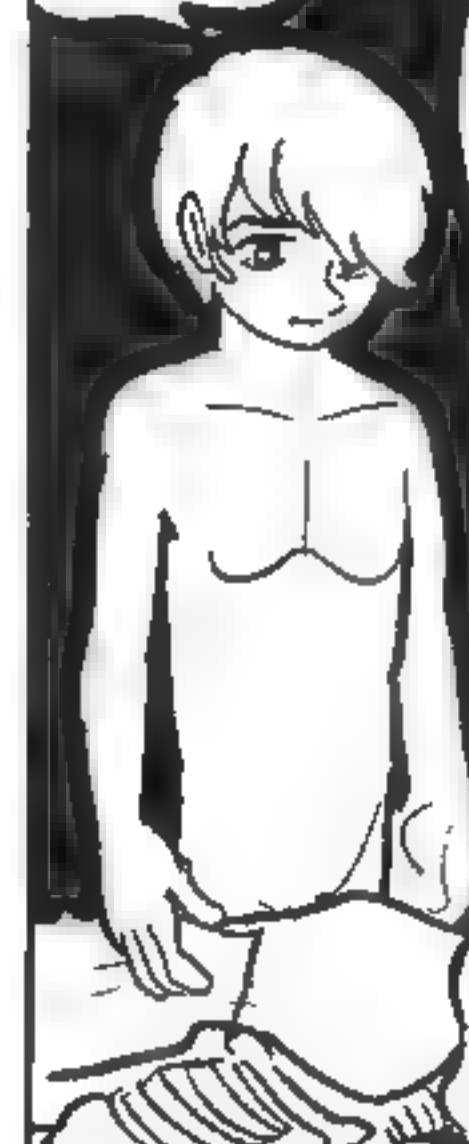
I AM FRAIL NOW, AND SOON I WILL DIE. I AM GLAD THAT I WILL BECOME ONE WITH THE SOIL OF THIS ISLAND.



I PRAY THAT THIS PLACE REMAINS A PARADISE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS, UNTAINTED BY WAR, SLAUGHTER, AND INVASION.



A PARADISE !

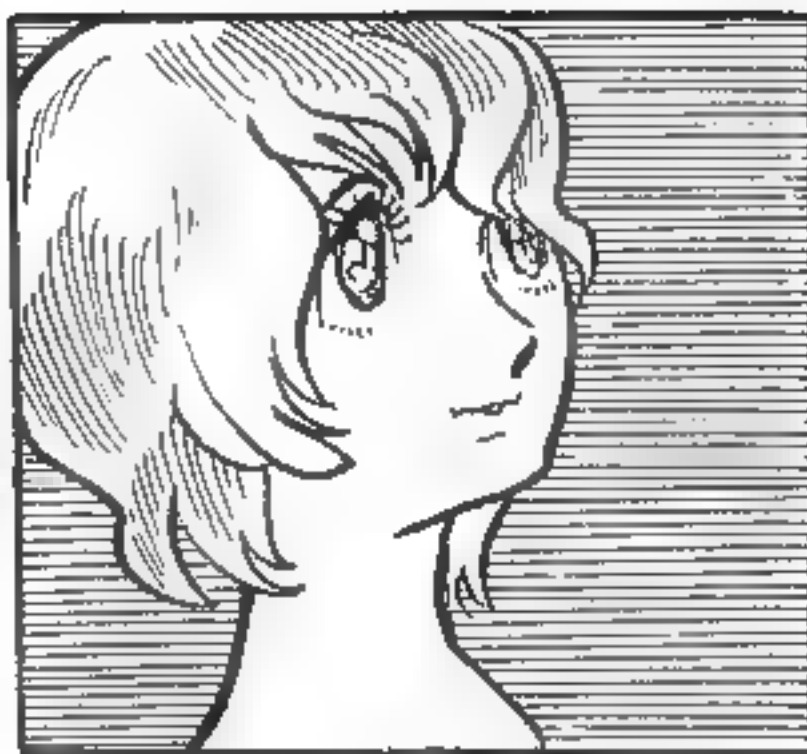


DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN. WE'LL NEVER HARM THESE ANIMALS.

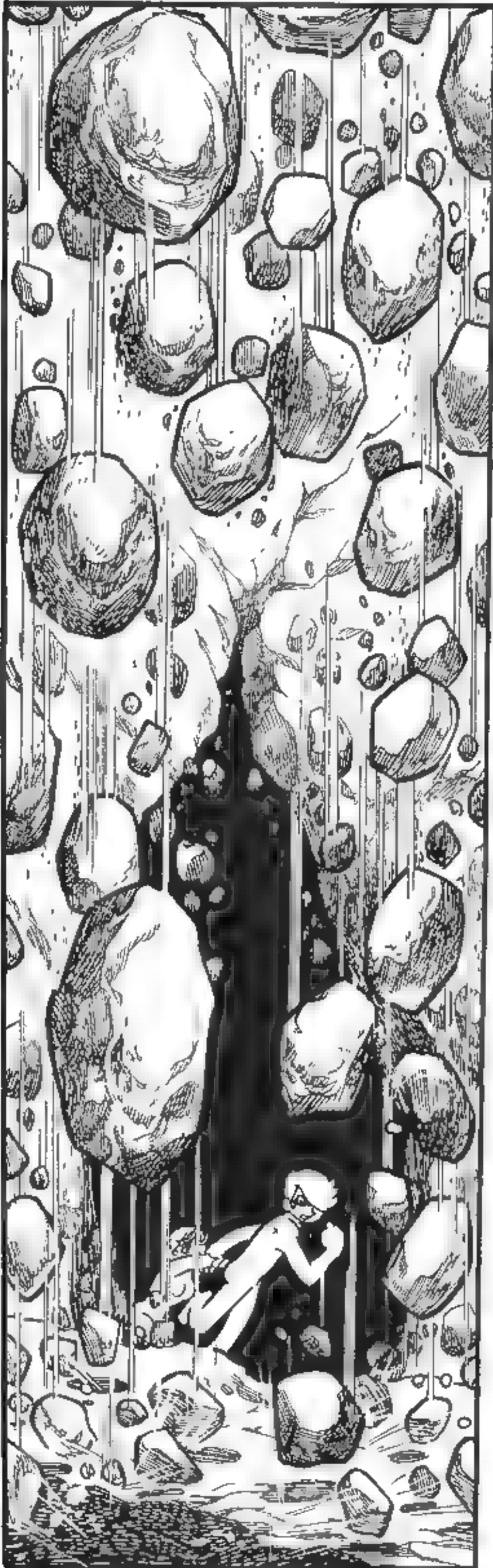


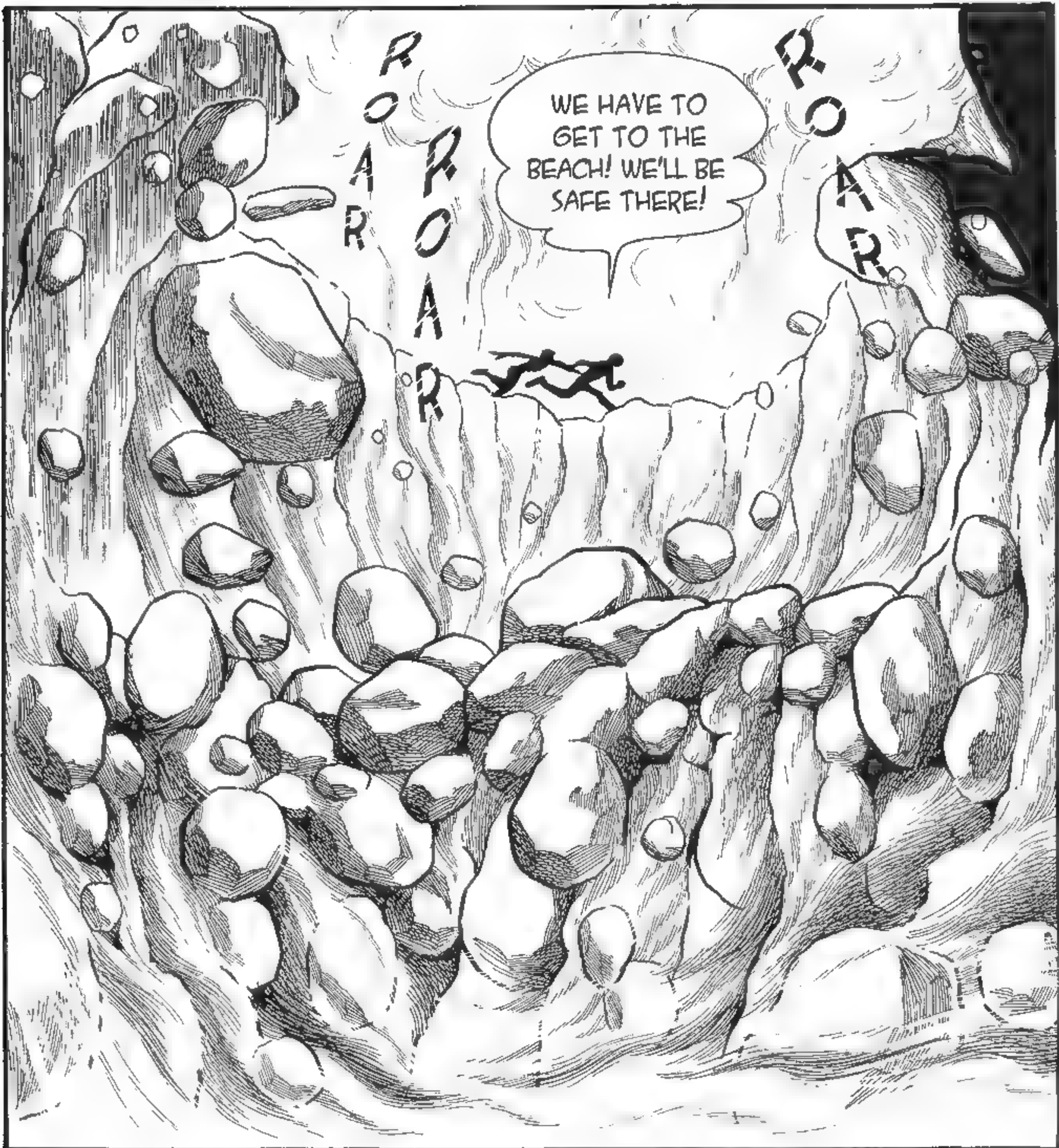
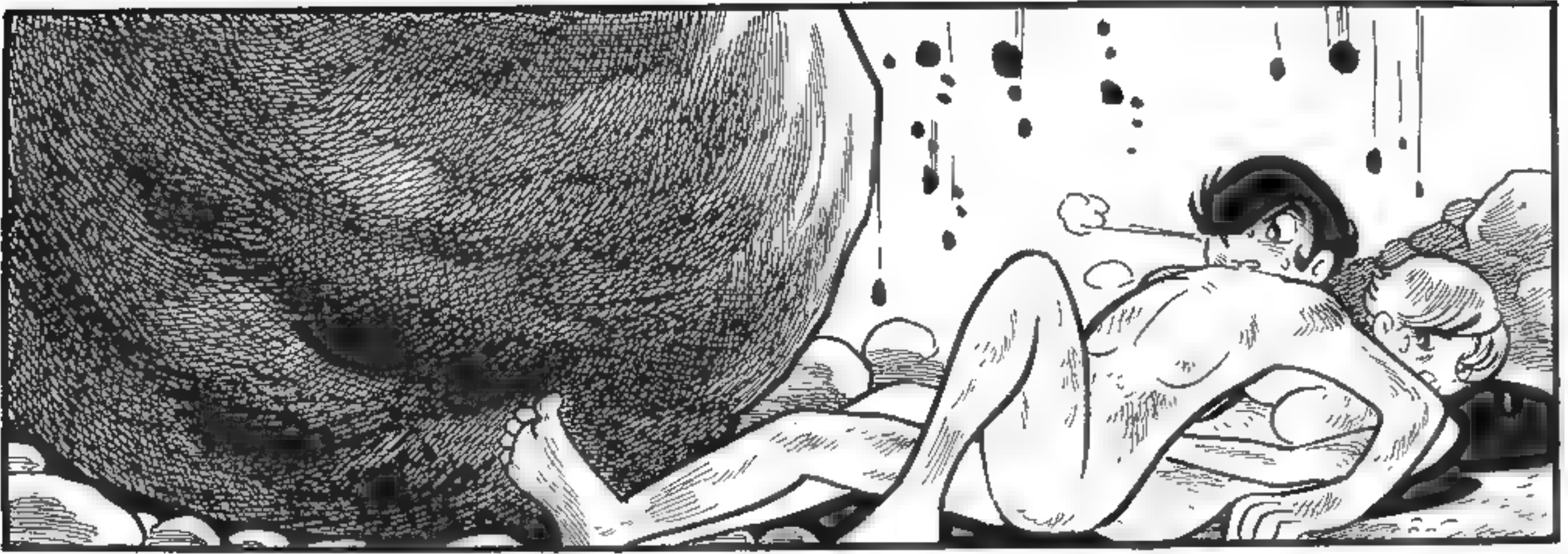


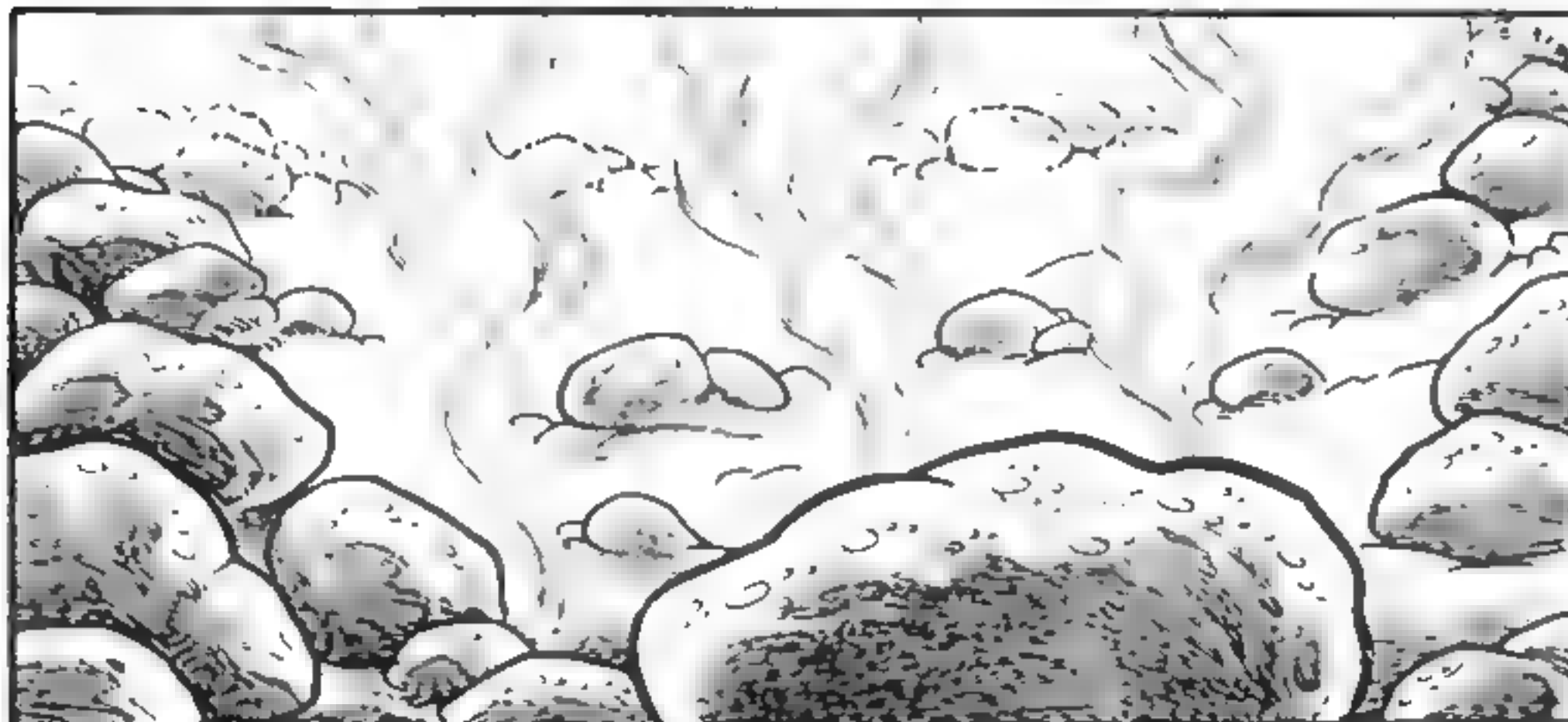
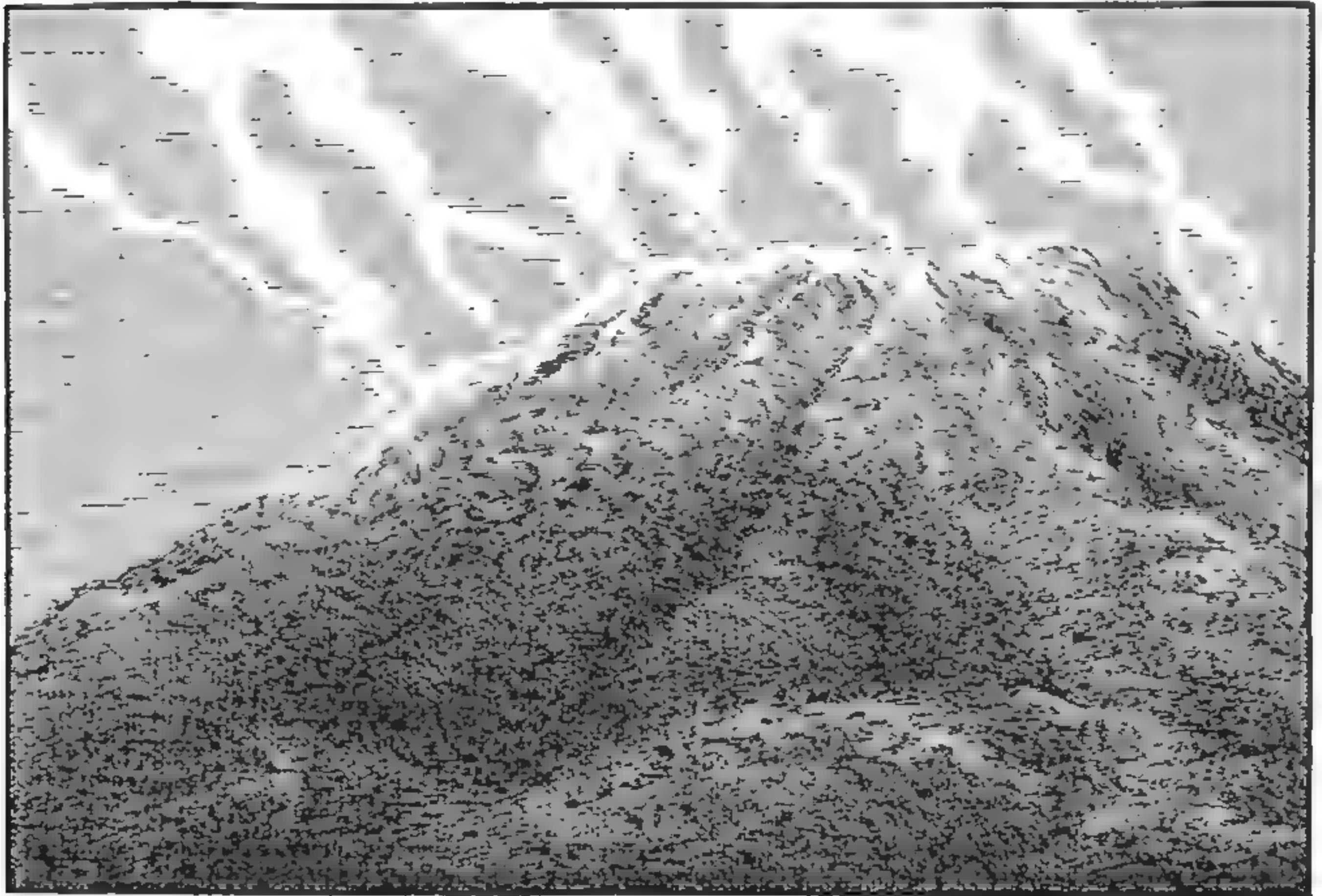
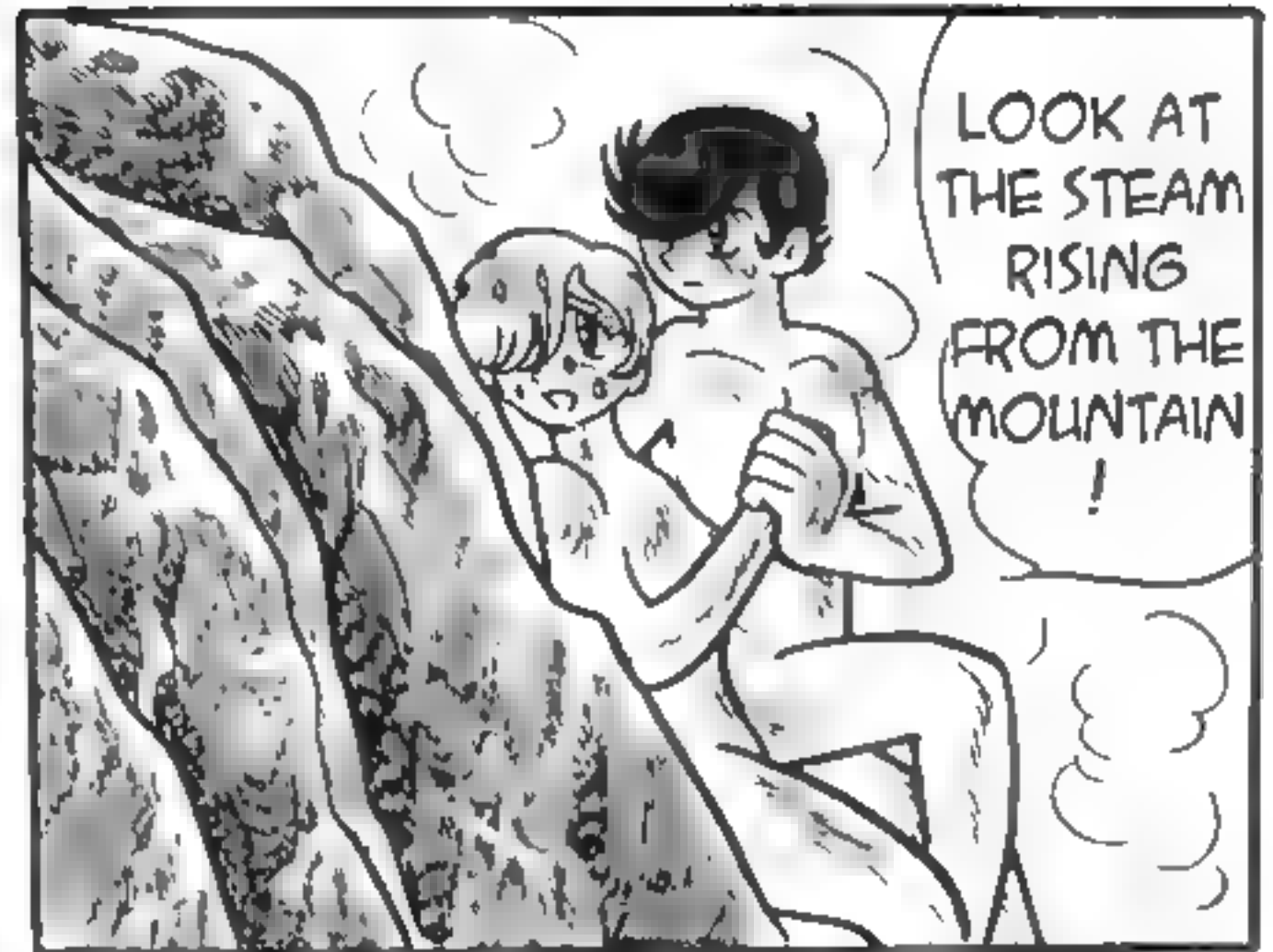
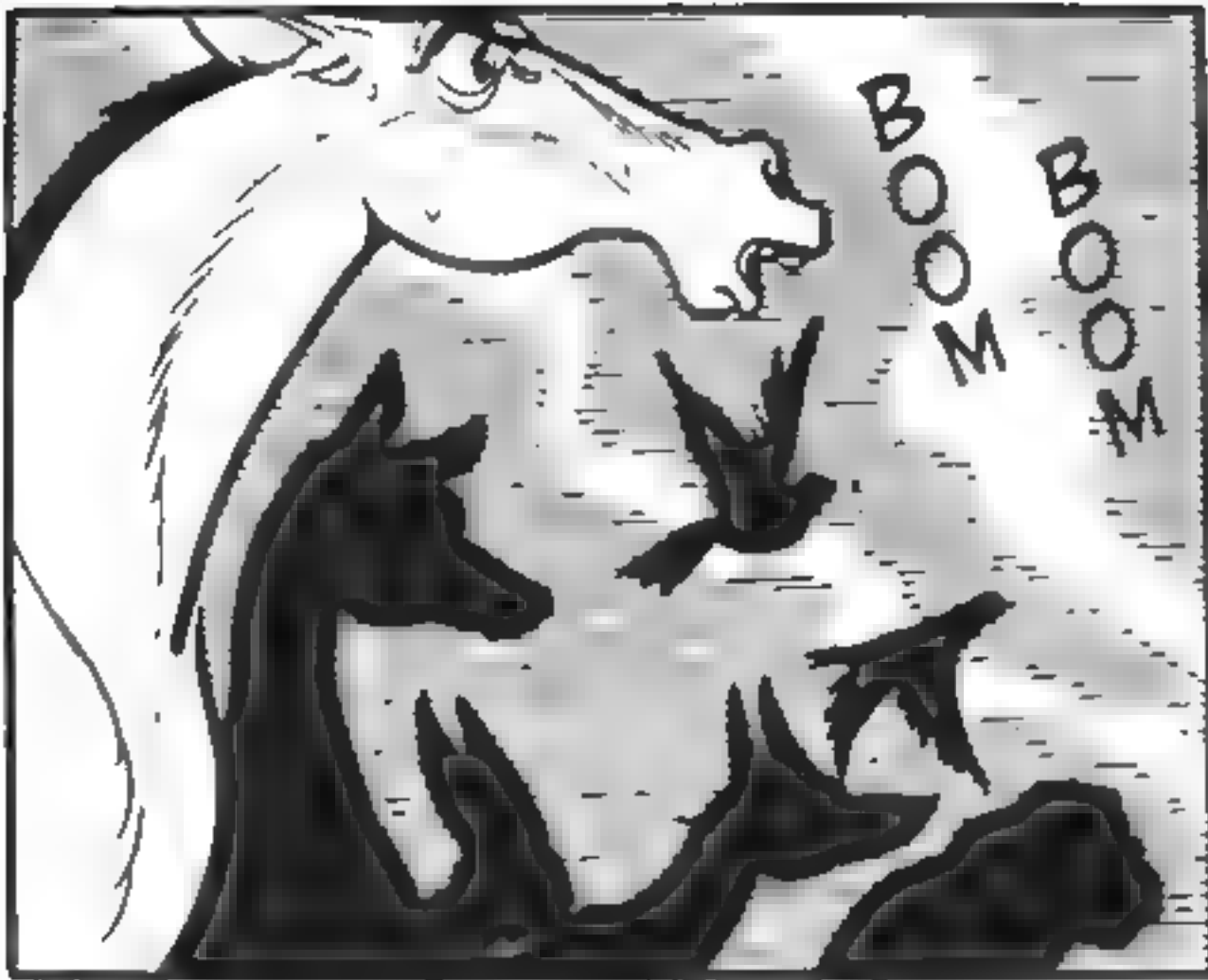


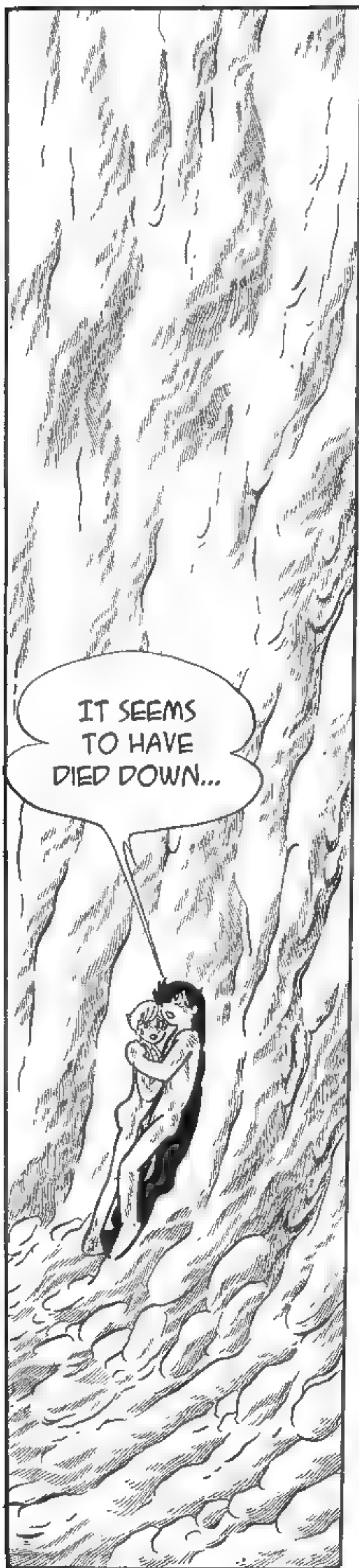


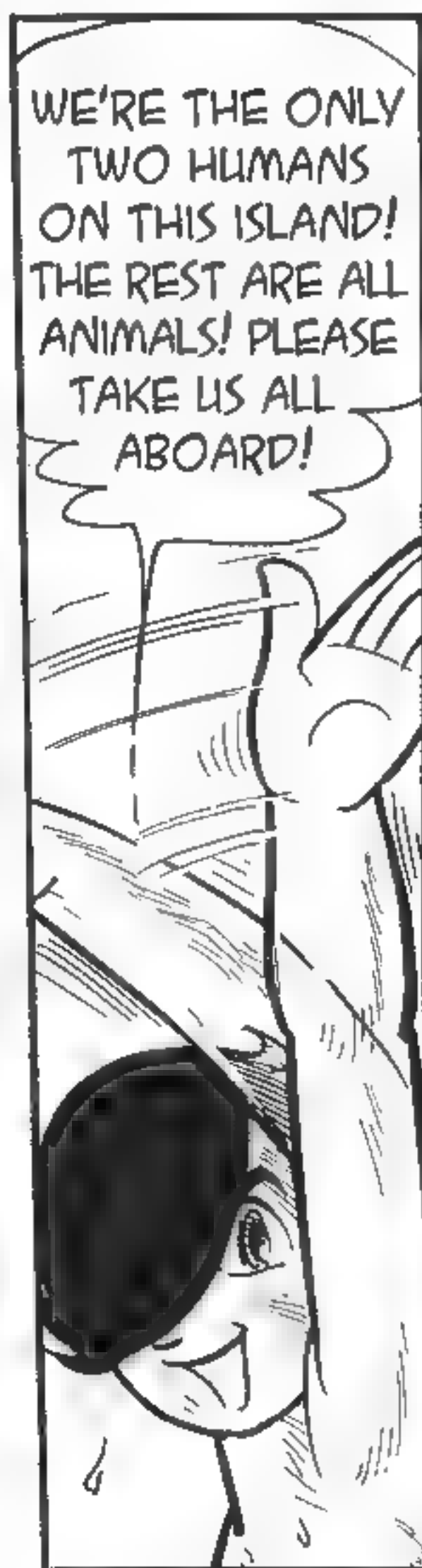
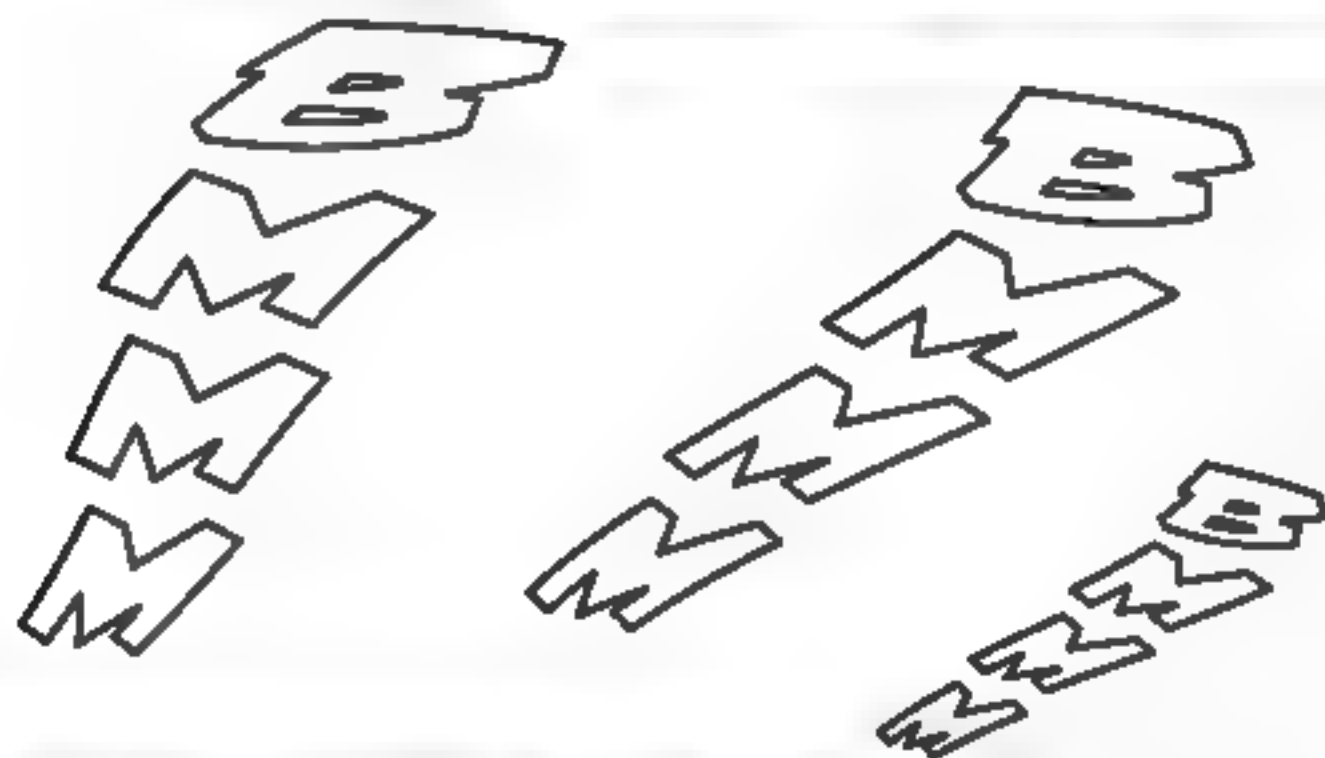
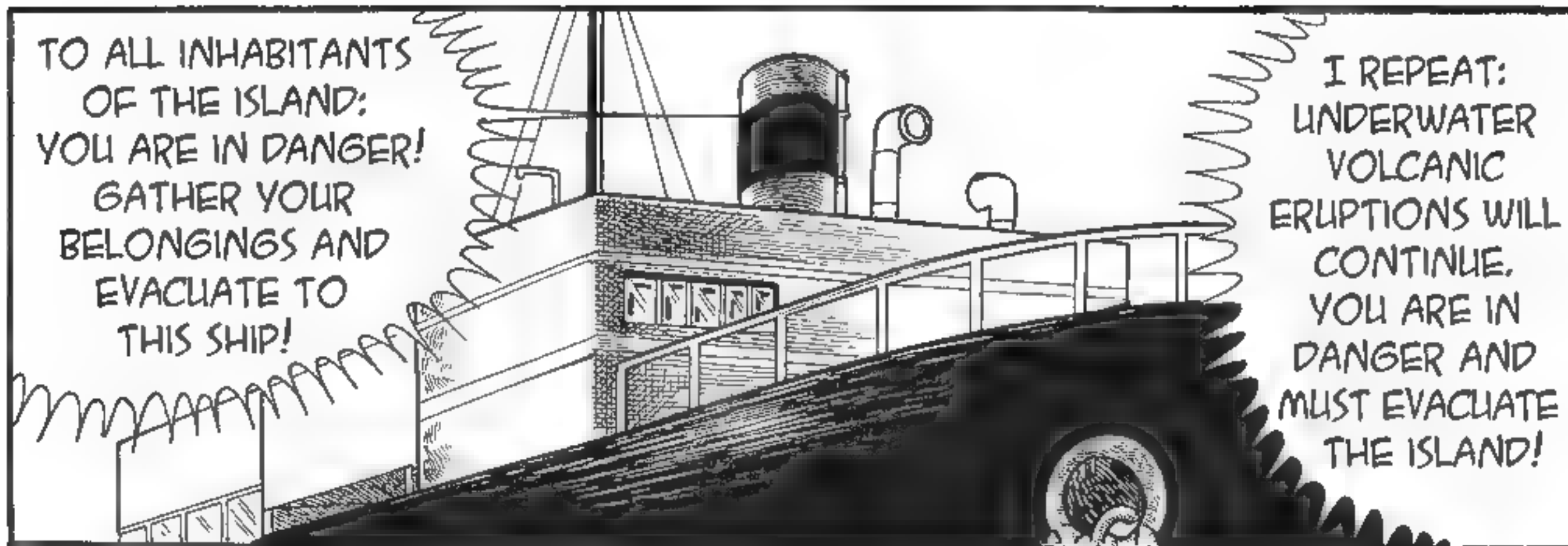


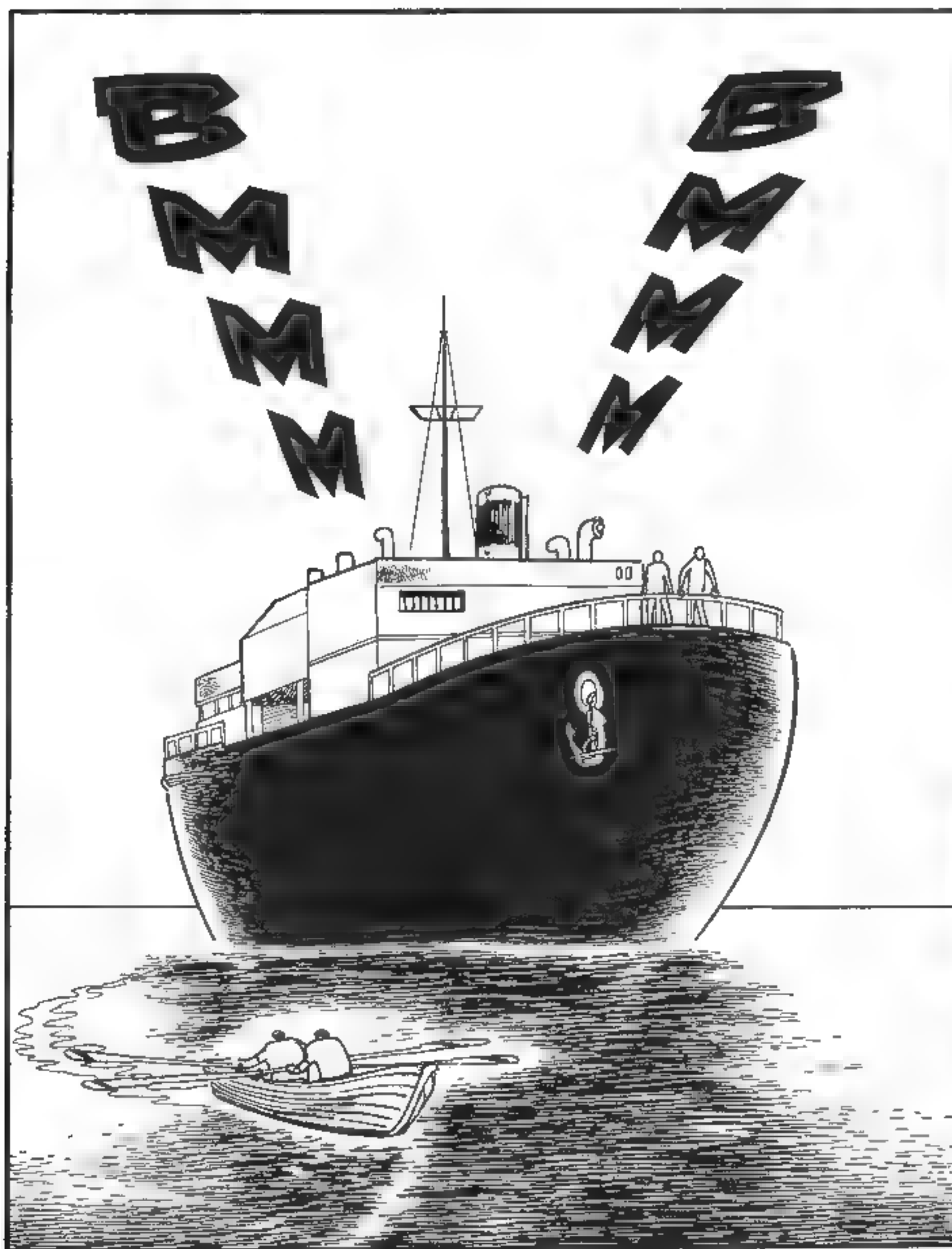












WHAT'S OVER?



NOTHING



I SWEAR
I WON'T
TELL
ANYONE
ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE.



THAT'S OKAY.
BESIDES,
THEY SAW US
FROM THE SHIP.

BACK IN TOKYO,
WE'LL RETURN TO
OUR DIFFERENT
LIVES...



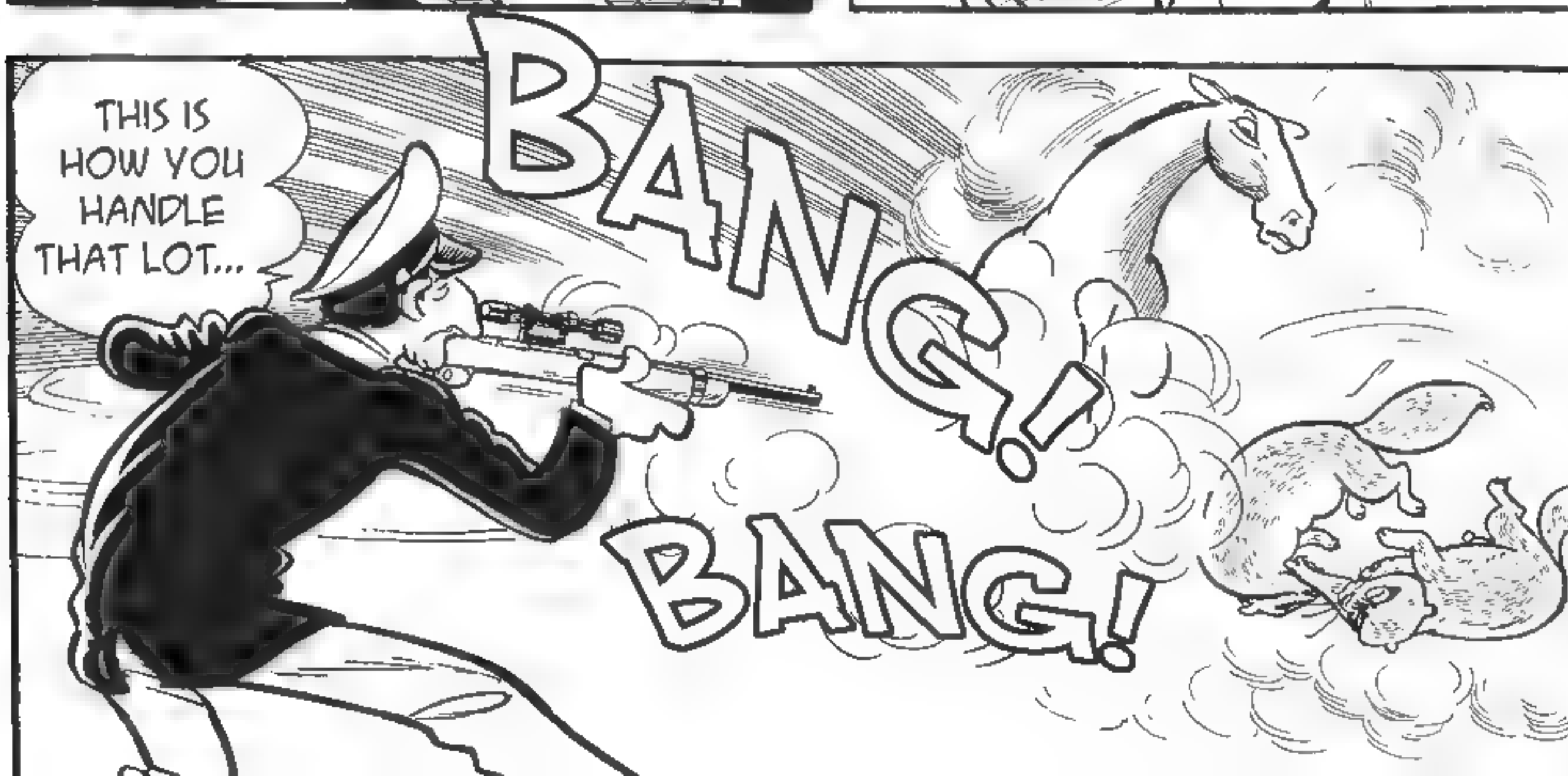
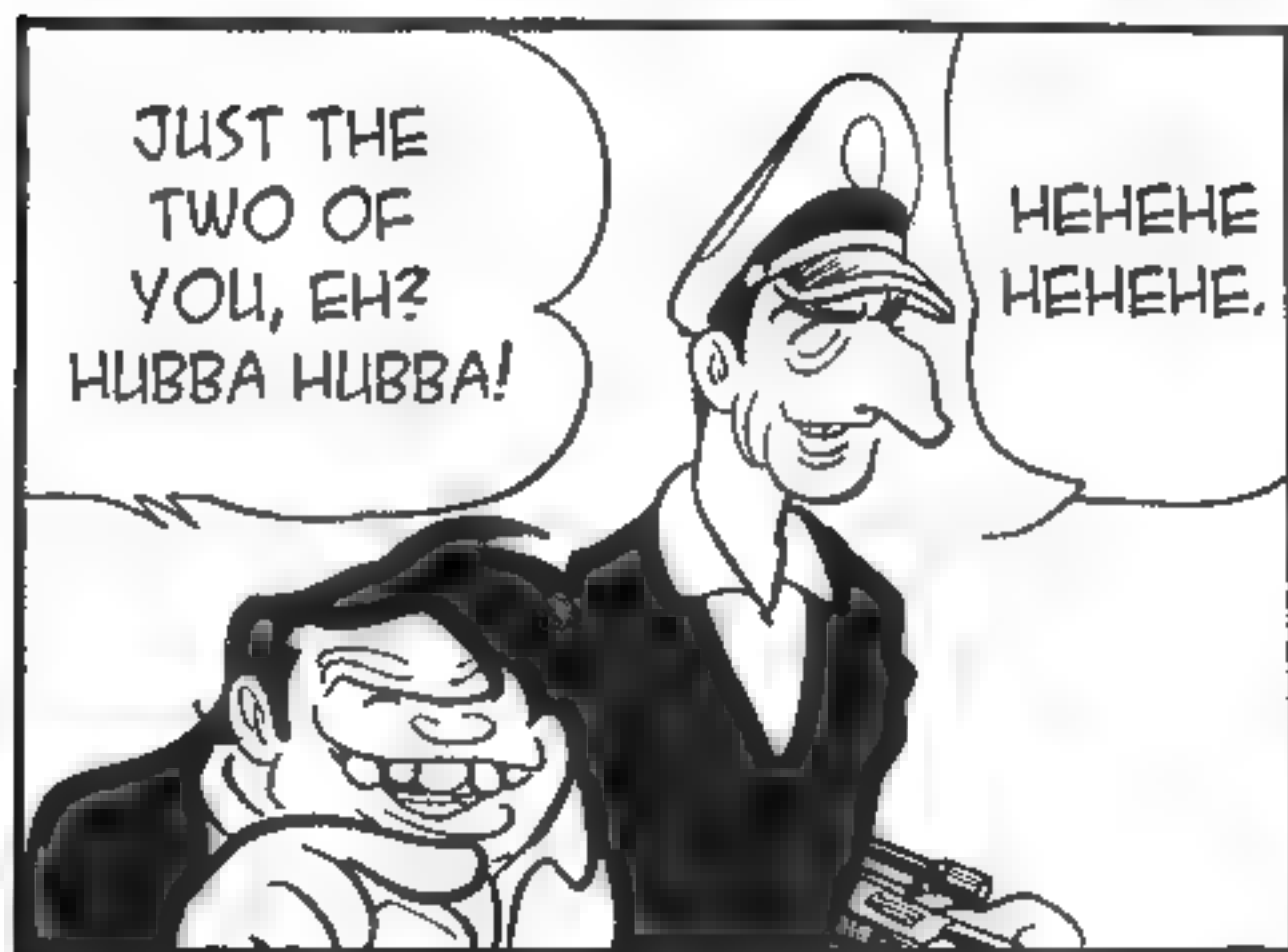
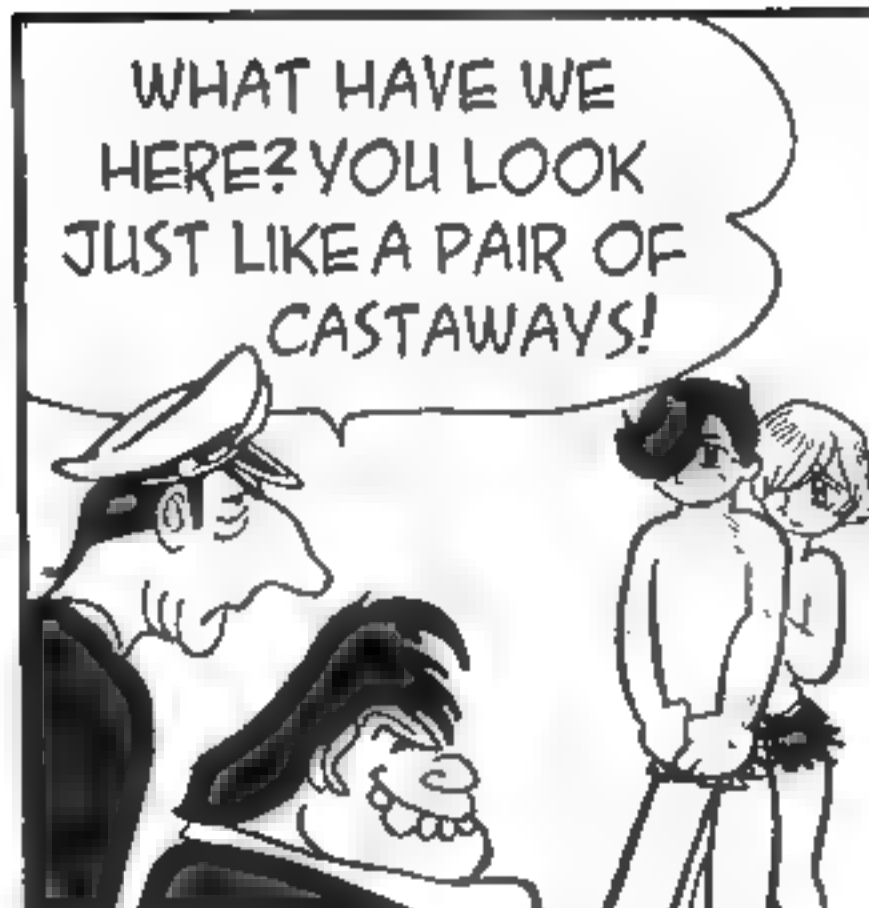
WILL
WE
MEET
AGAIN
?

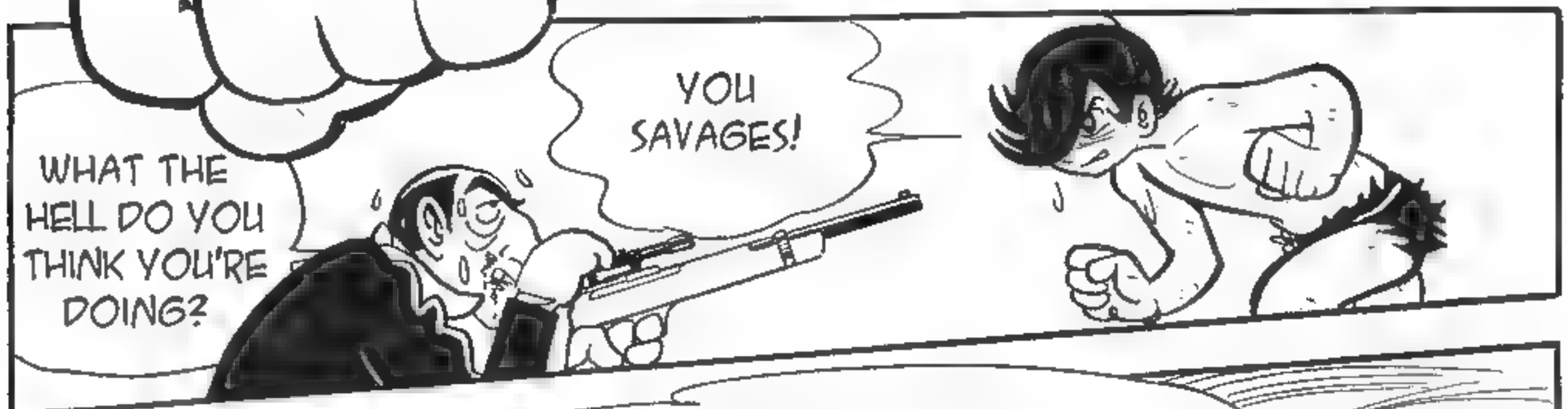


I DOUBT
IT...
THAT'S
HOW
LIFE IS,
ISN'T IT?

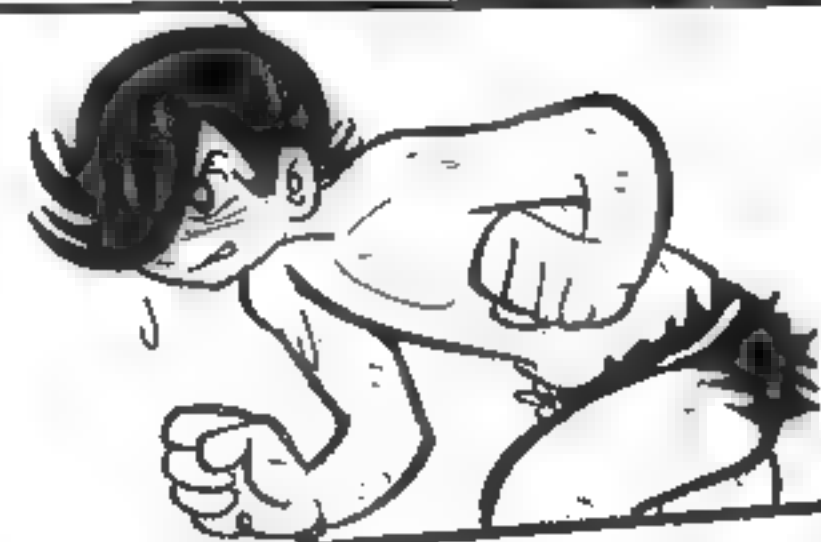
10 YEARS
WILL PASS,
THEN 20.
TODAY WILL
SEEM LIKE
A FADED
DREAM.

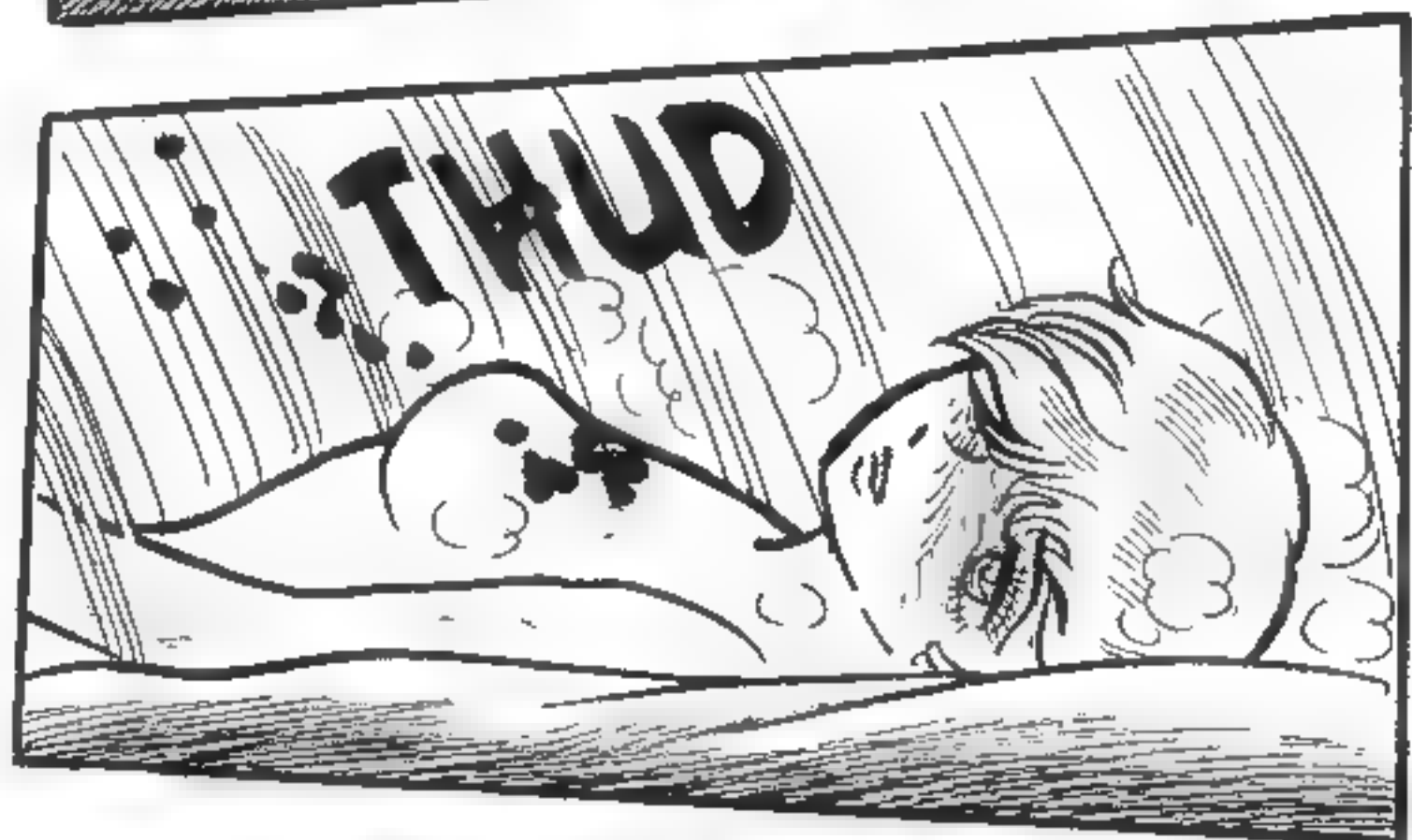
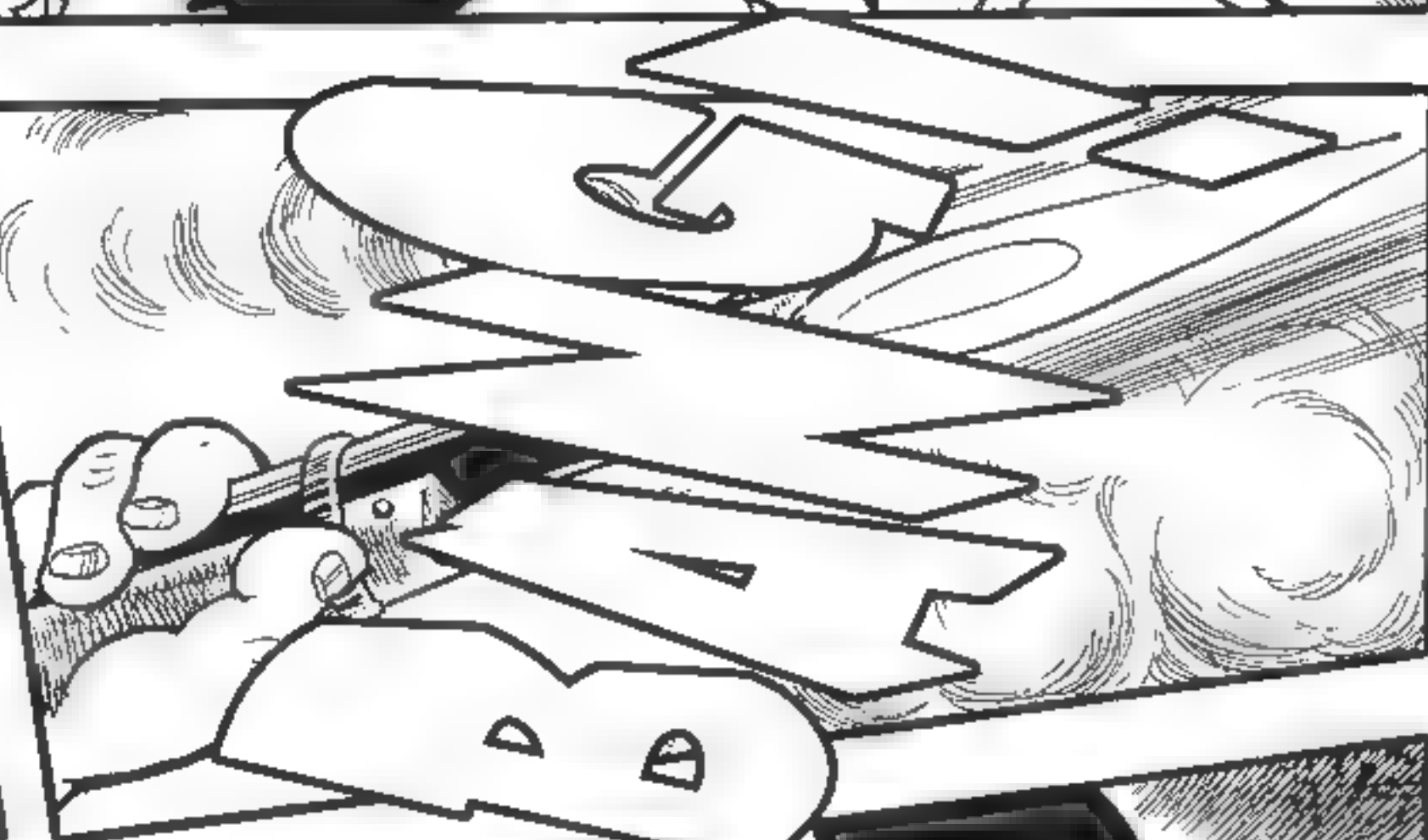


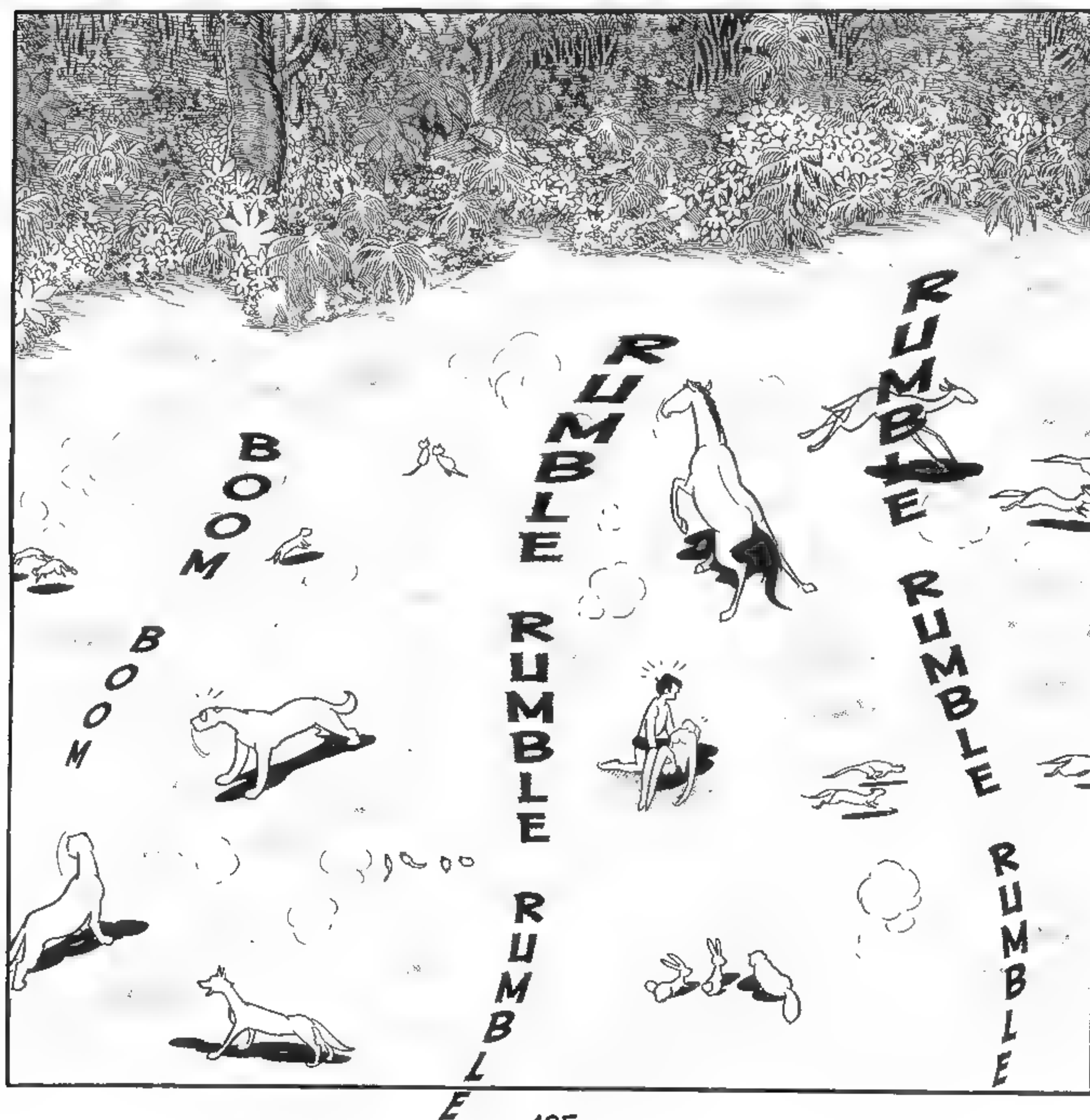




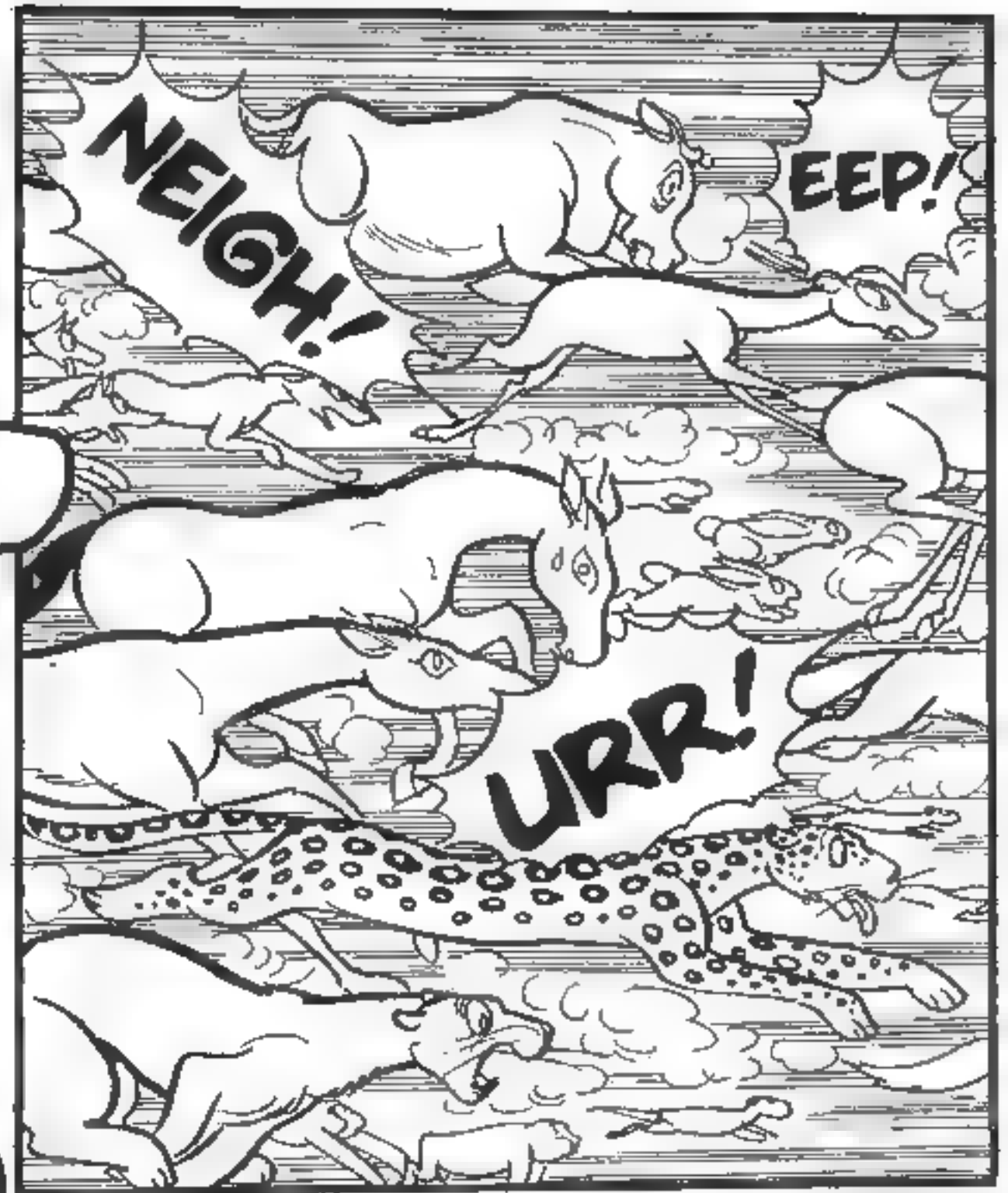
YOU SAVAGES!

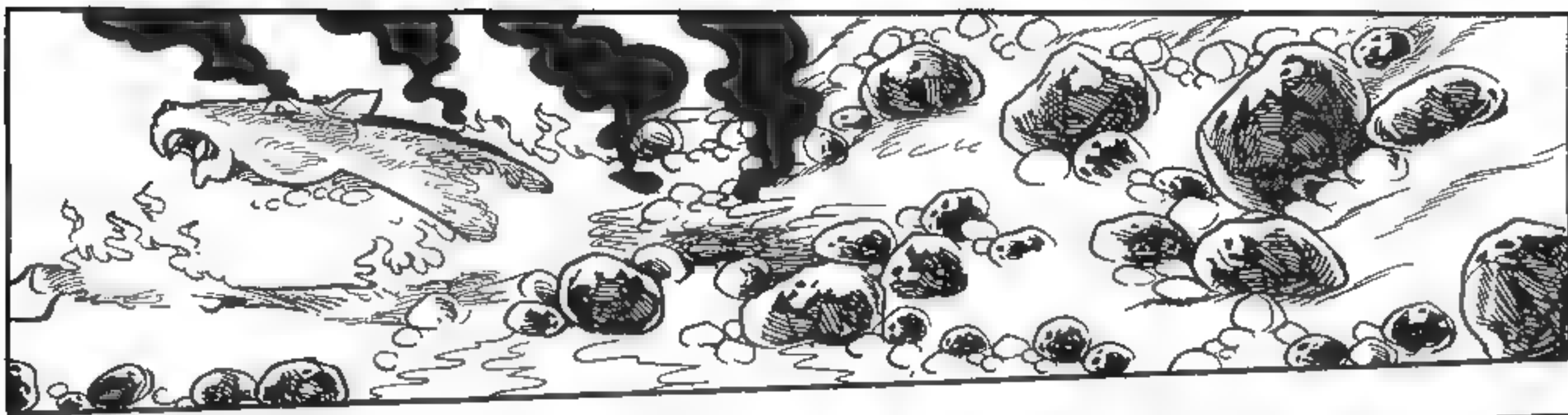




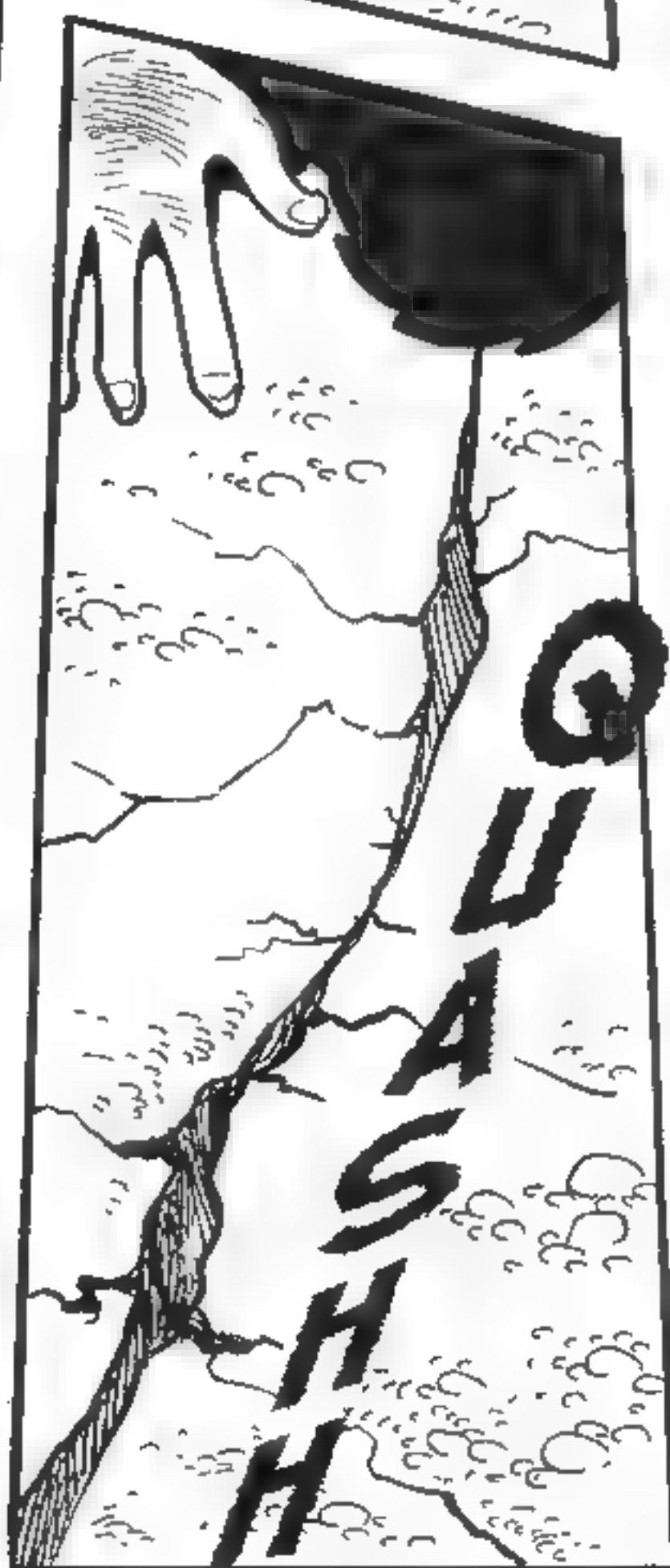


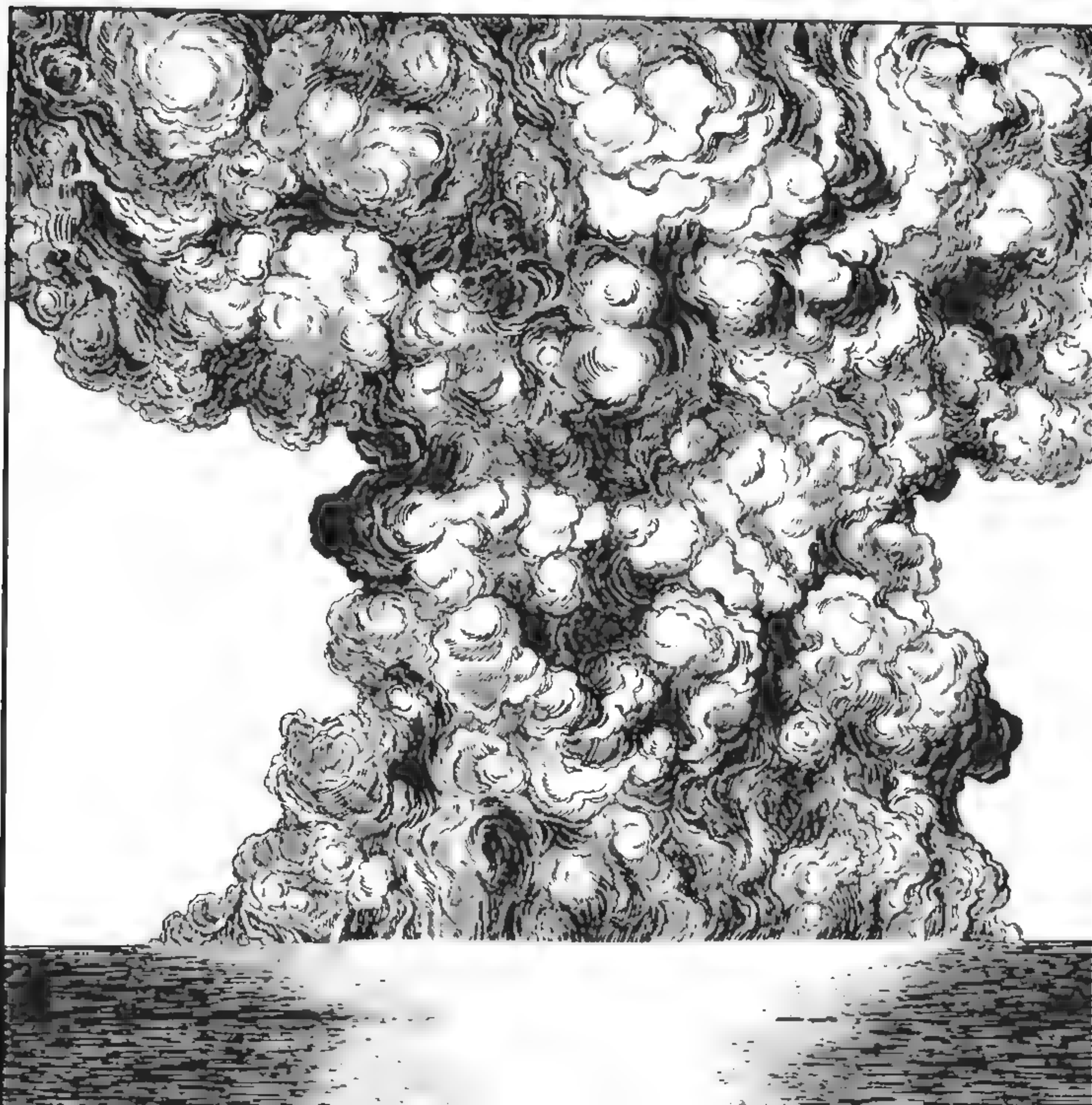
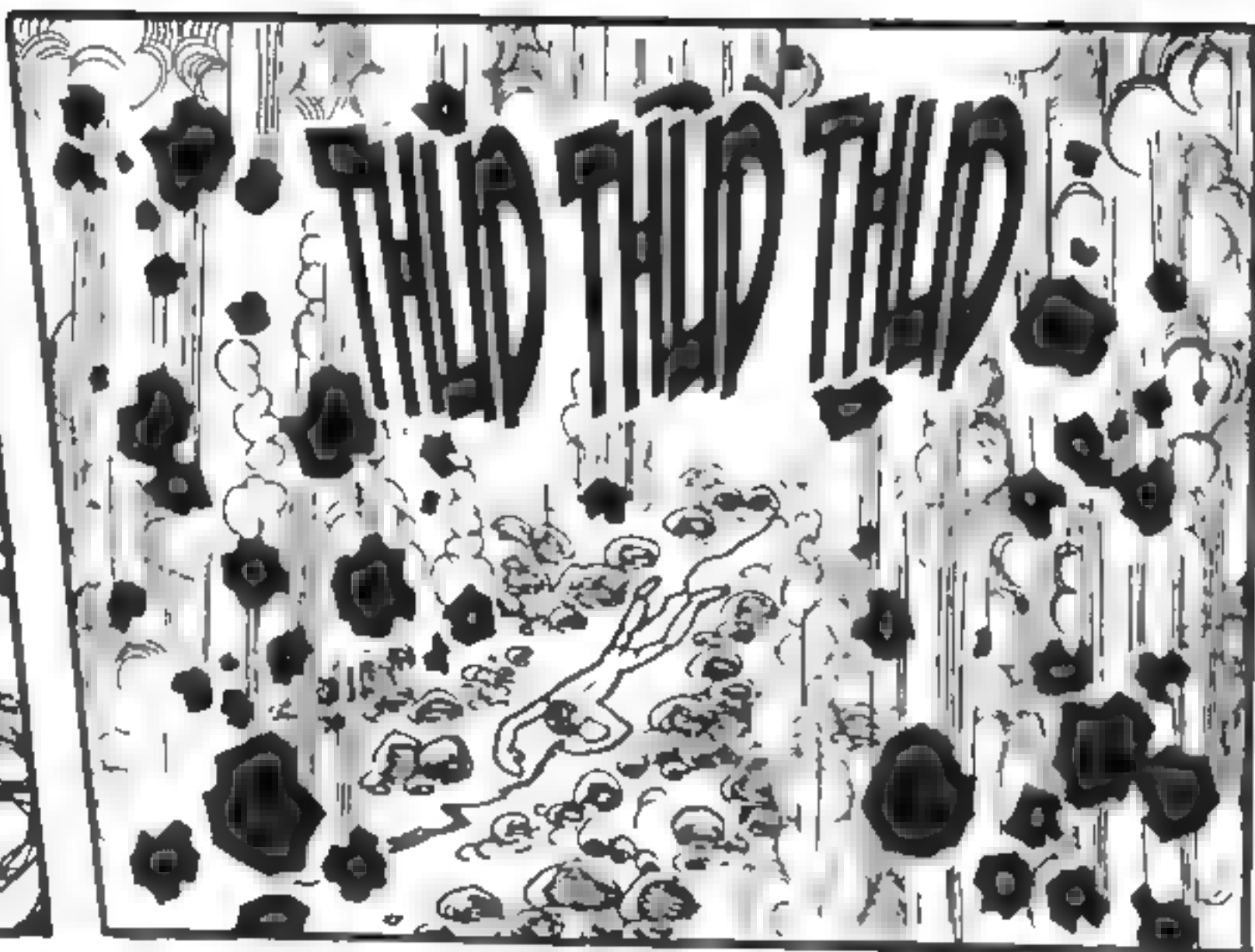




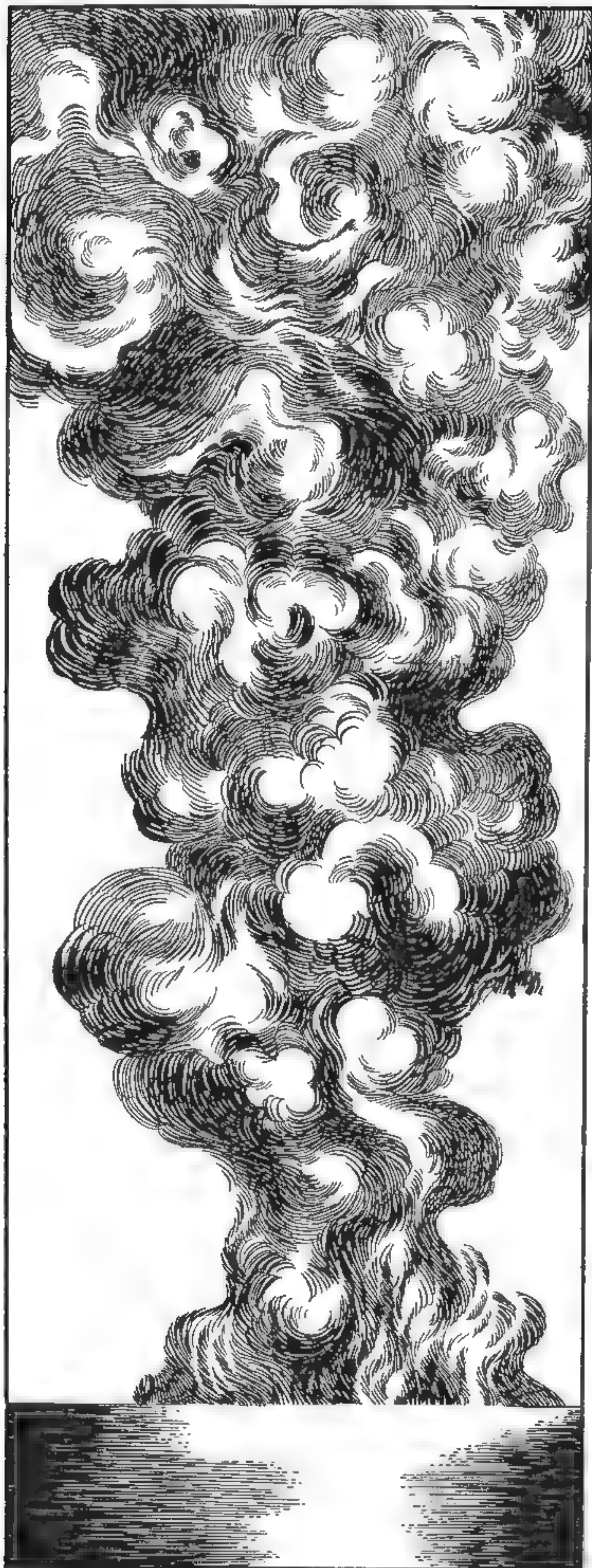


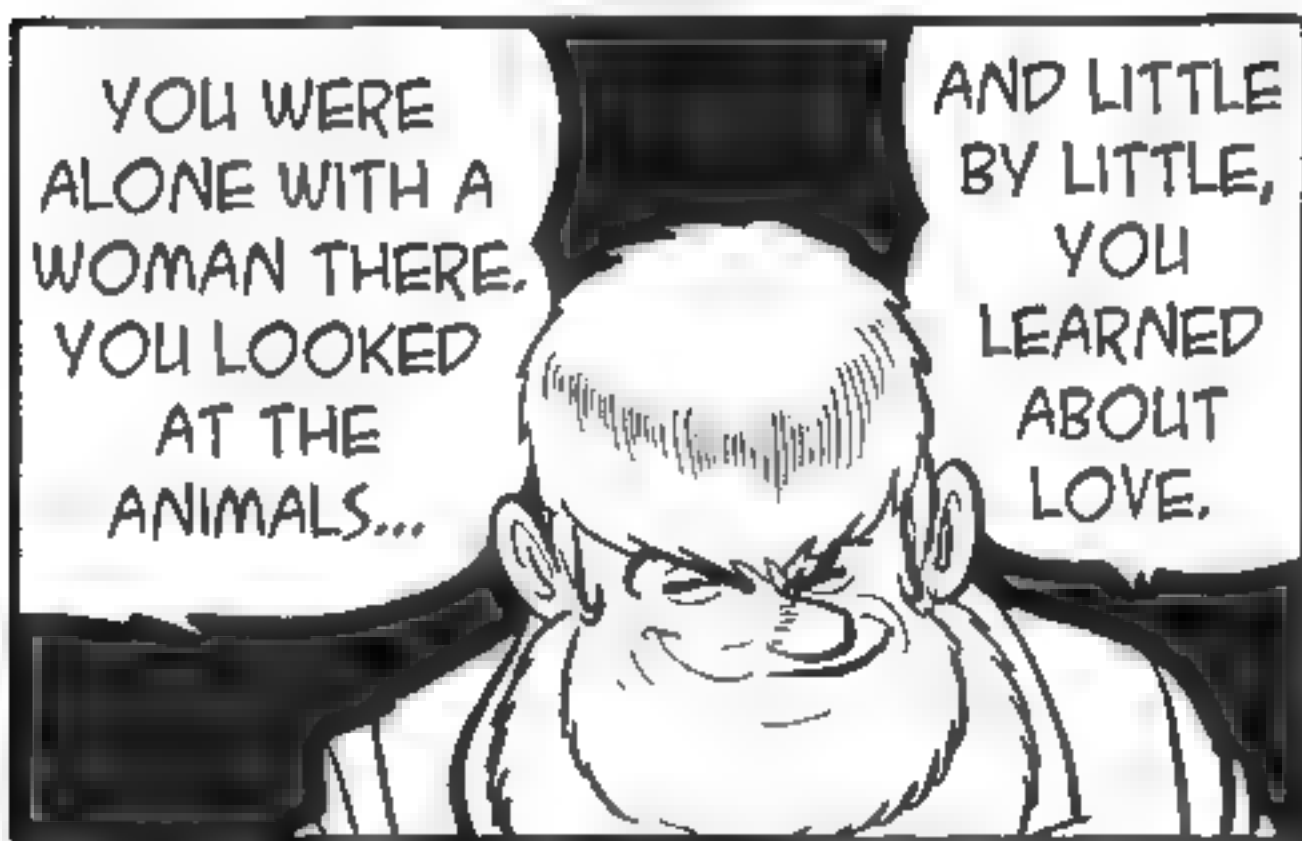
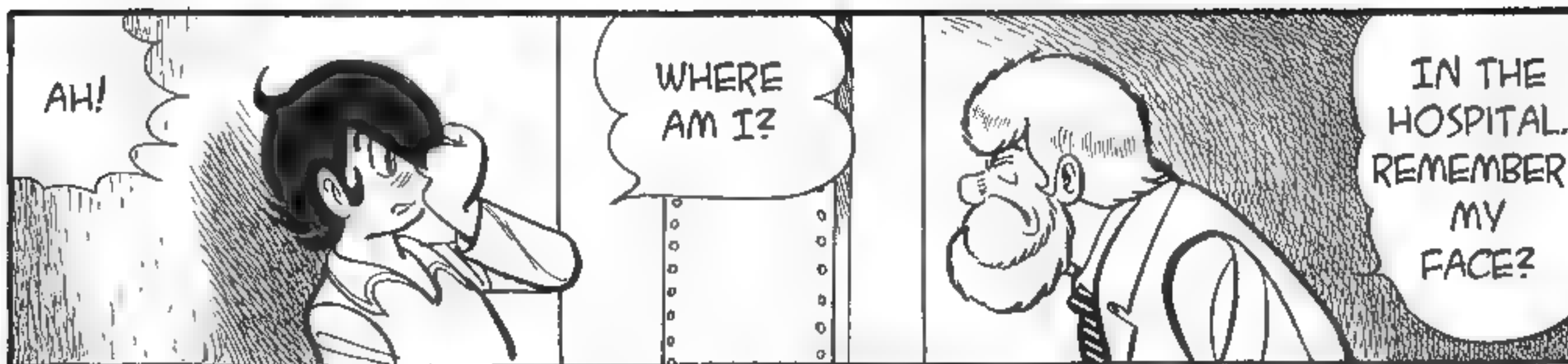




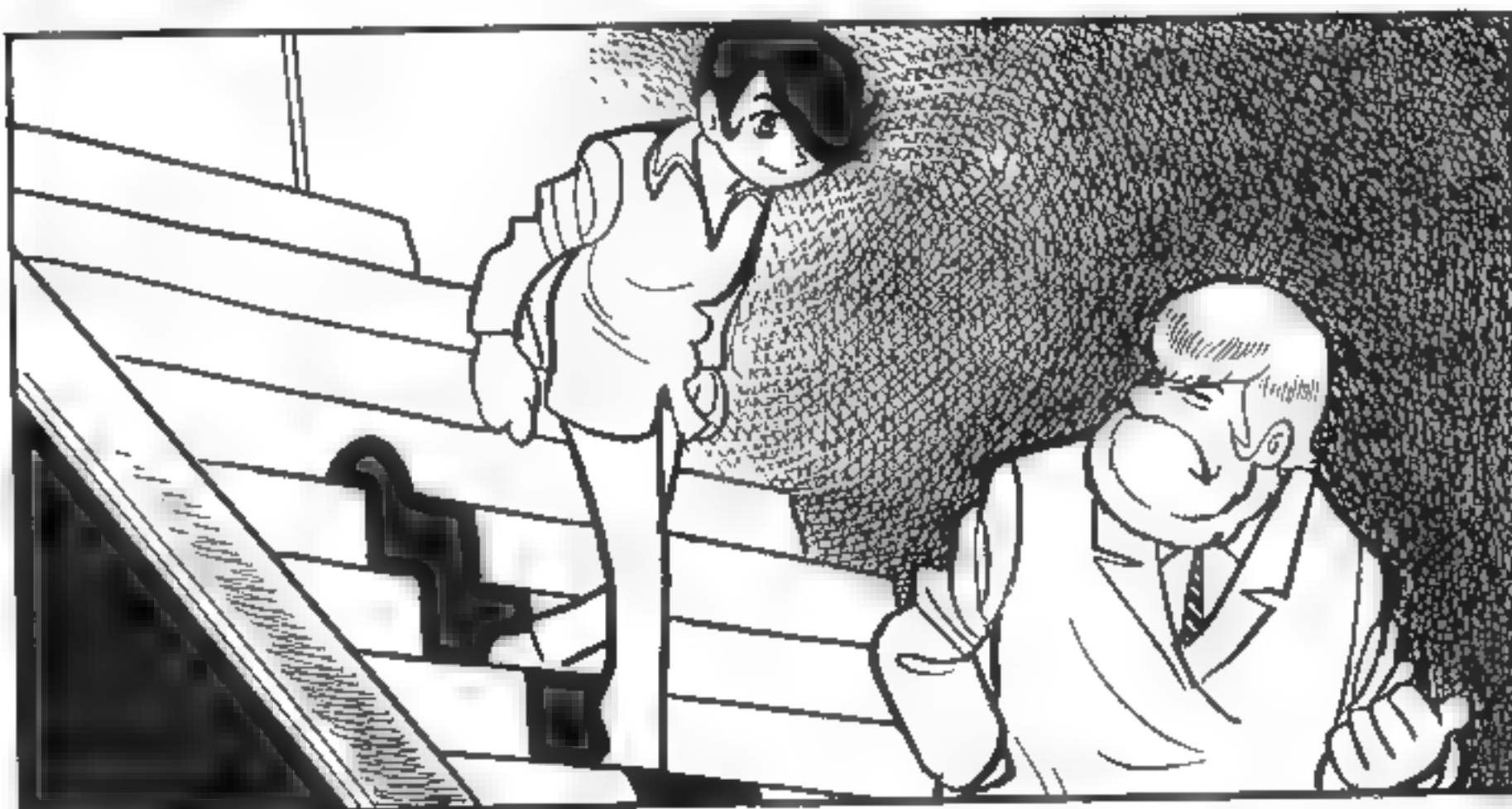
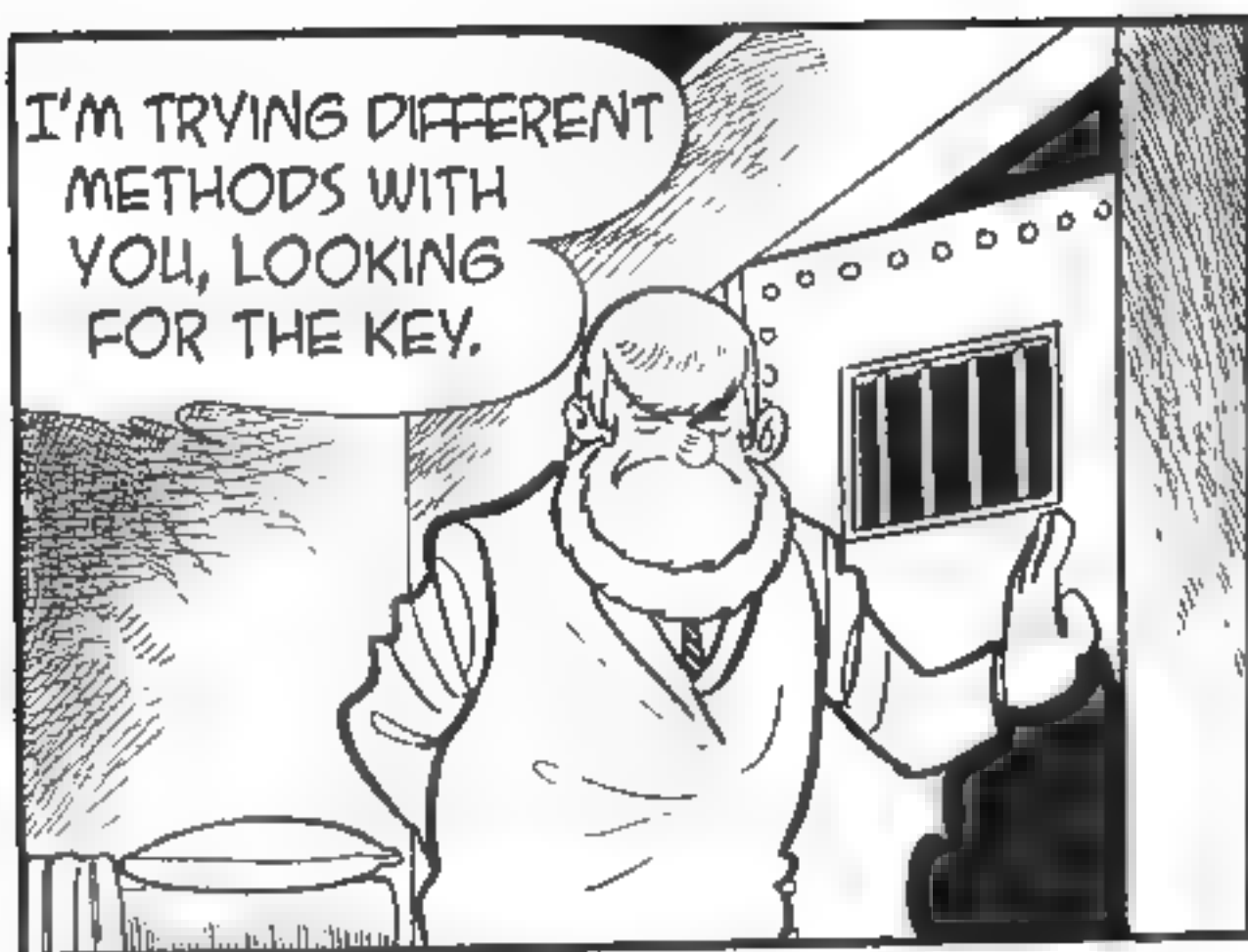


CHAPTER 3: THE COACH









HE JUST STANDS THERE LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME?



YES, AND IF YOU RAISE ONE OF HIS HANDS, HE'LL STAY LIKE THAT FOR HOURS, HOLDING IT IN THE AIR.



THIS PATIENT SITS AND BABBLES HAPPILY ON AND ON...



WHAT DOES SHE SAY?

IT'S ALL NON-SENSE.

THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE KITCHEN ROASTER IS TO COOK FISH BUT YOU CAN ALSO USE IT TO BAKE BREAD AND IT MAKES PERFECTLY BROWNED TOAST EVEN BETTER THAN A REAL TOASTER OVEN YOU CAN TOAST SEVERAL YES NEW YEAR'S RICE CAKES FOR NEW YEAR'S AT ONCE FOR STUDENTS LIVING ALONE AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS AND SINGLE PEOPLE LIVING ALONE IT'S JUST THE THING A SUNNYSIDE UP SUNNYSIDE UP SUNNYSIDE UP EGG IS NO GOOD IF THE WHITE IS TOO HARD IT'S NO GOOD IF THE WHITE IS TOO HARD IN A FRYING PAN THE WHITE



THIS PATIENT HAS A CONDITION COMMON AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE... THEY BECOME COMPLETELY EMOTIONALLY DESOLATE AND END UP LIKE THIS...

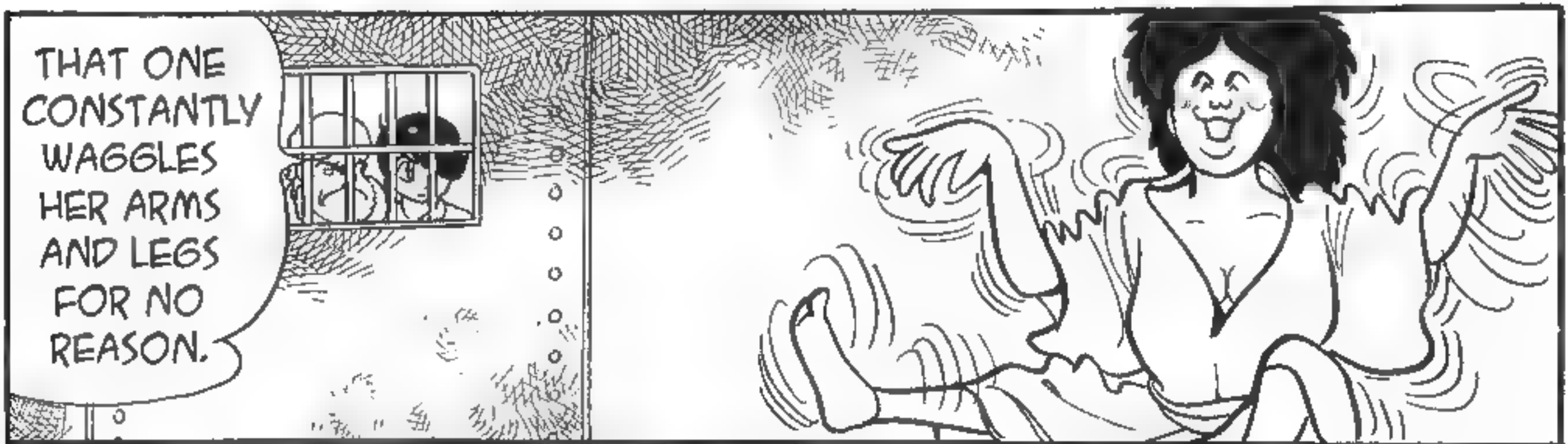
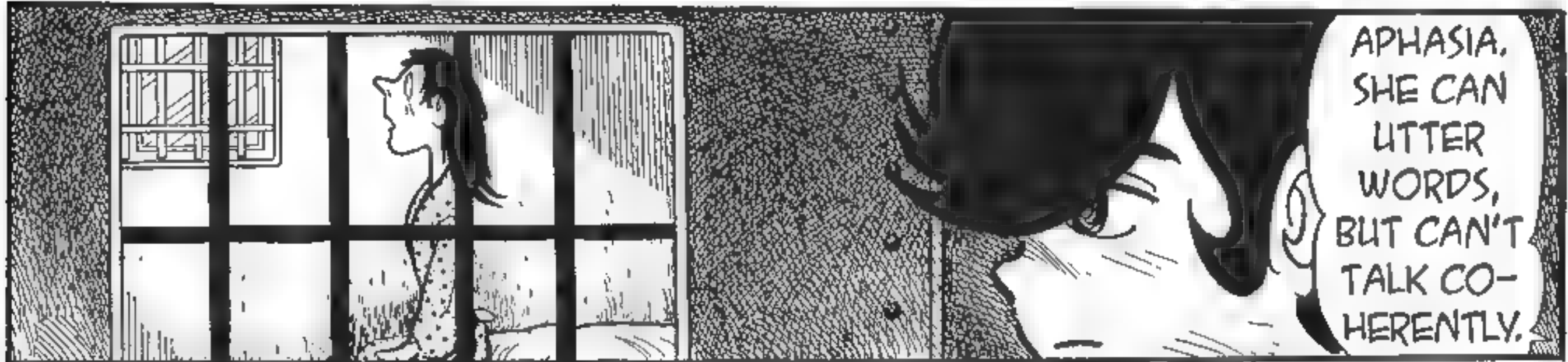


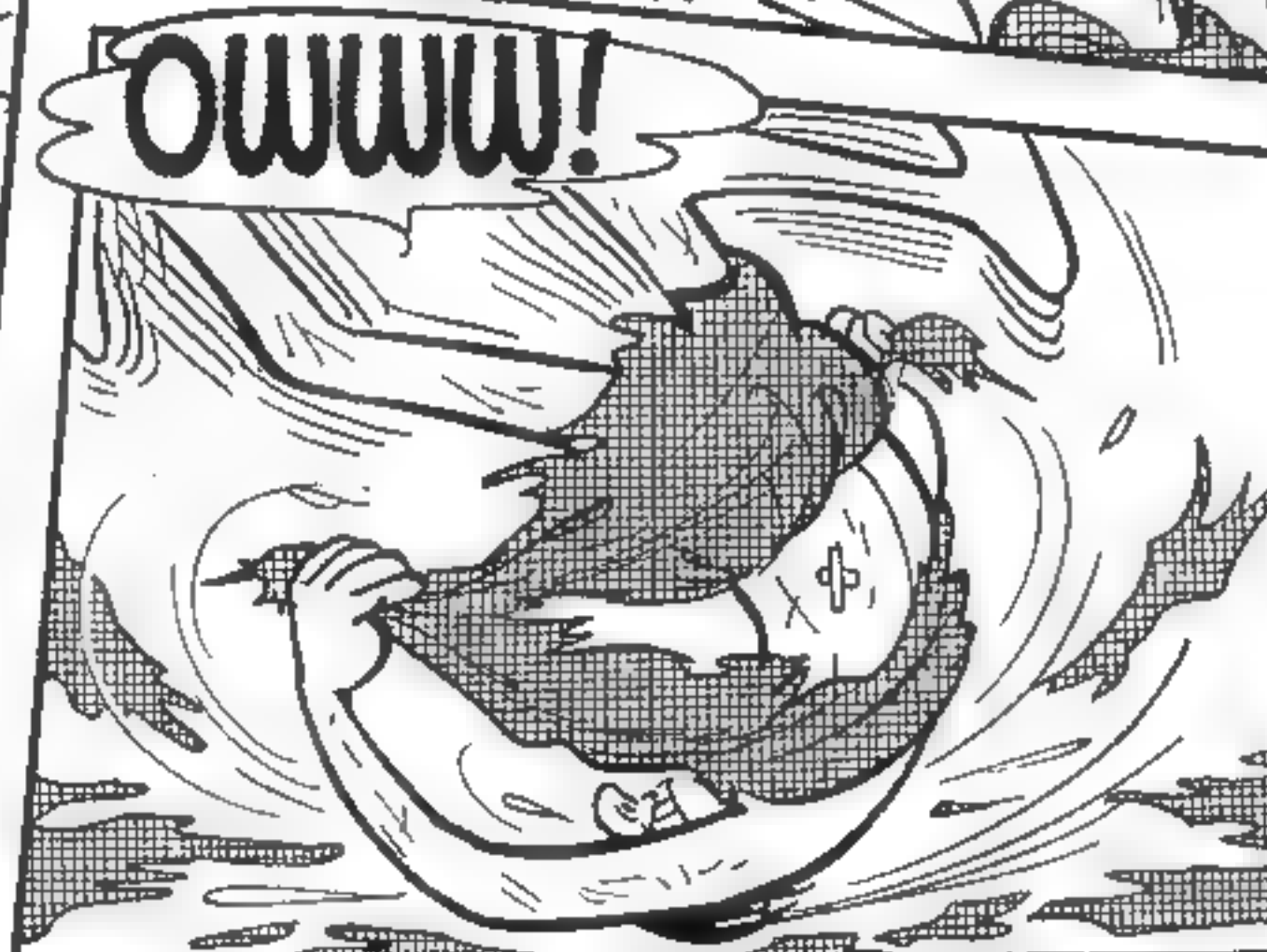
IT'S VERY HARD TO CURE... IT AFFLICTS 70% OF THE PATIENTS IN ALL HOSPITALS LIKE THIS ONE.

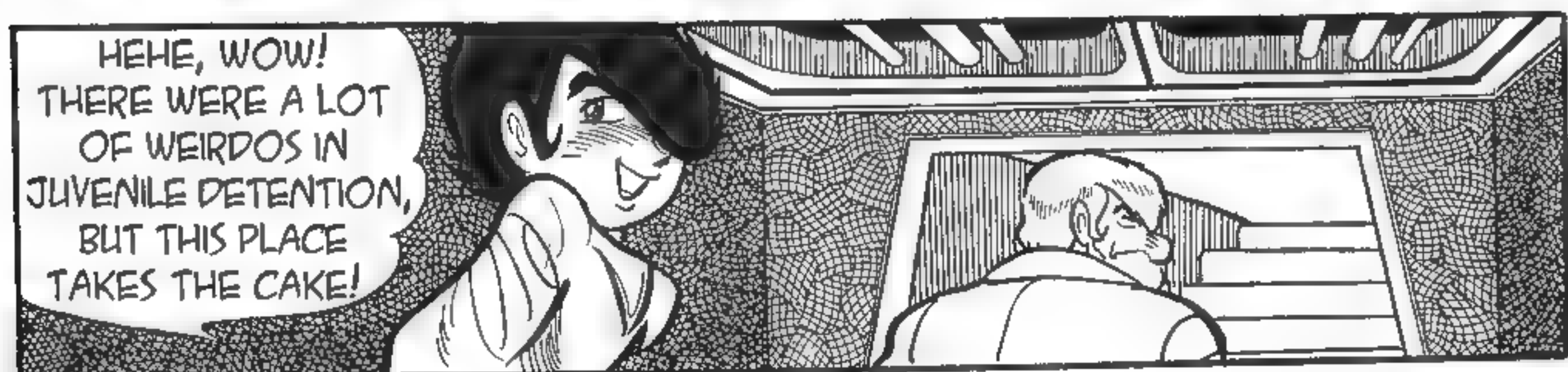
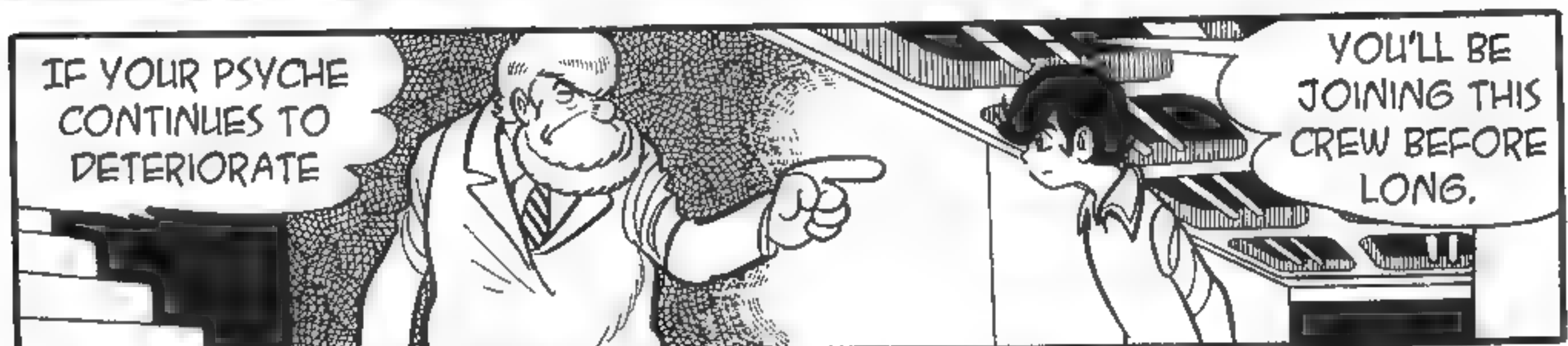
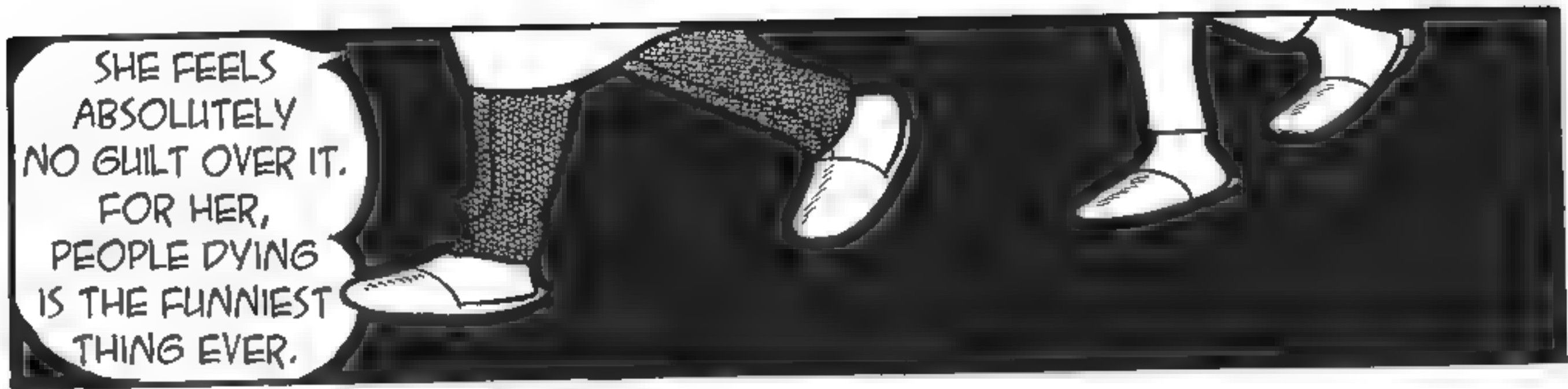


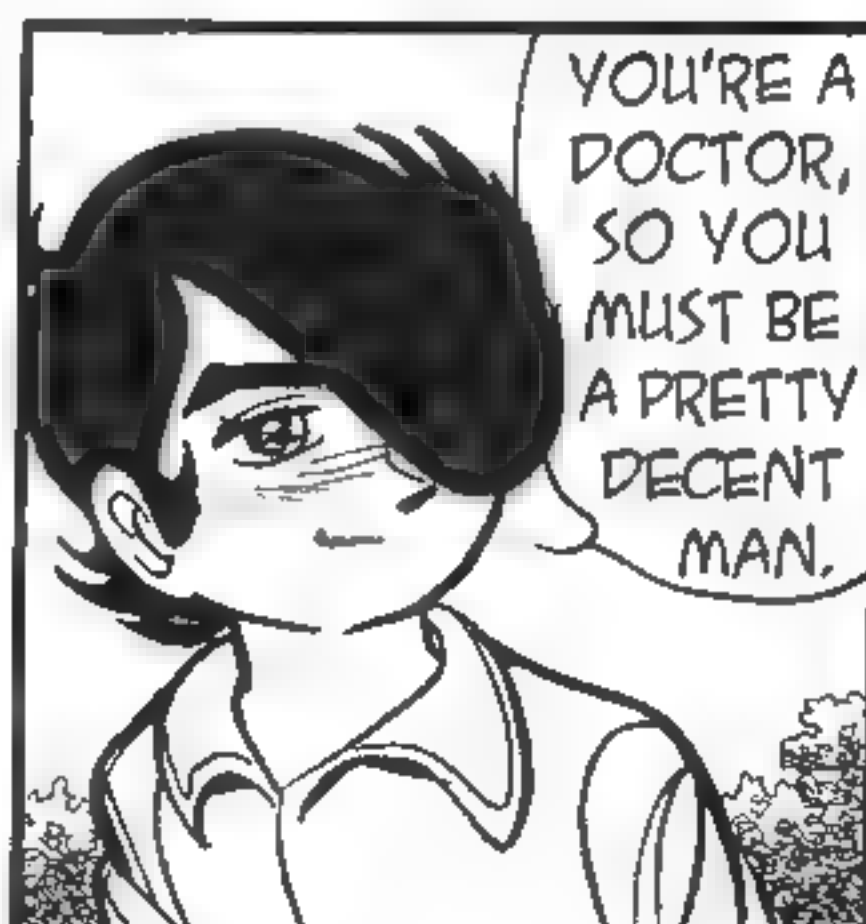
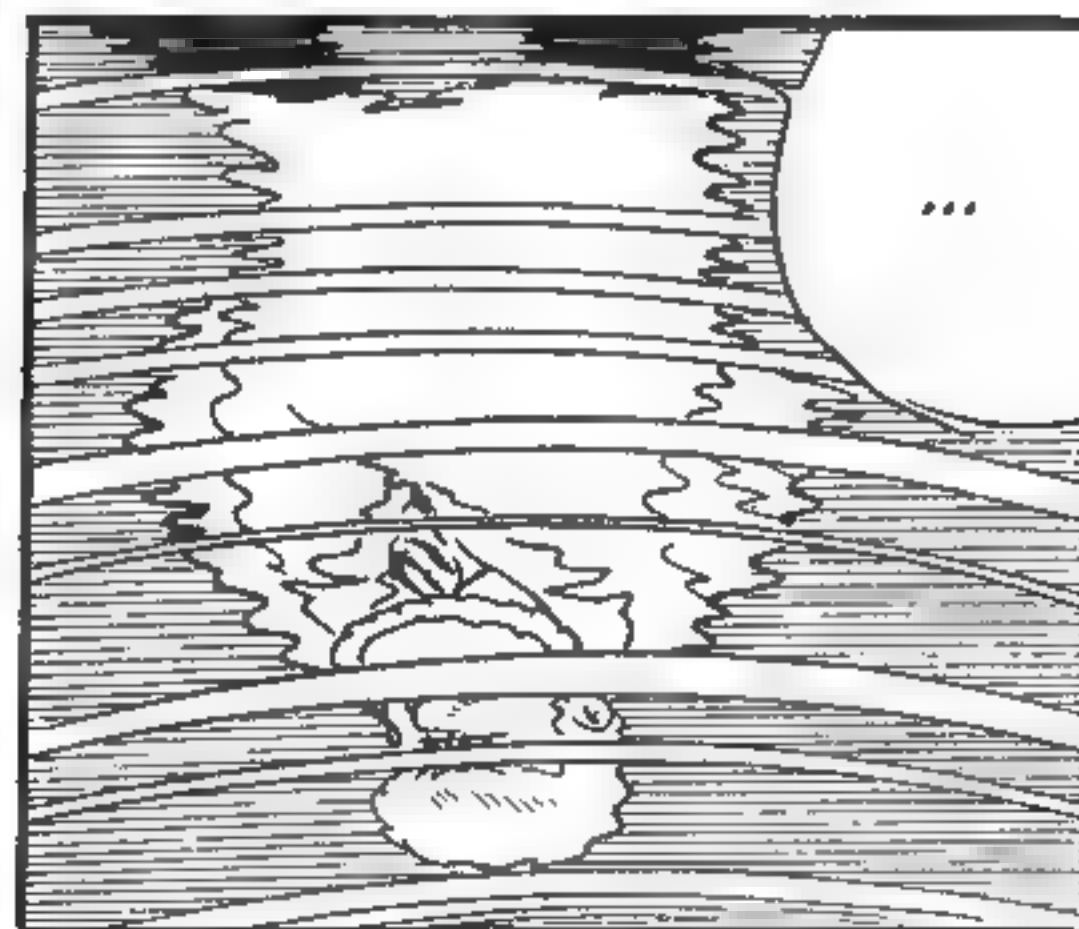
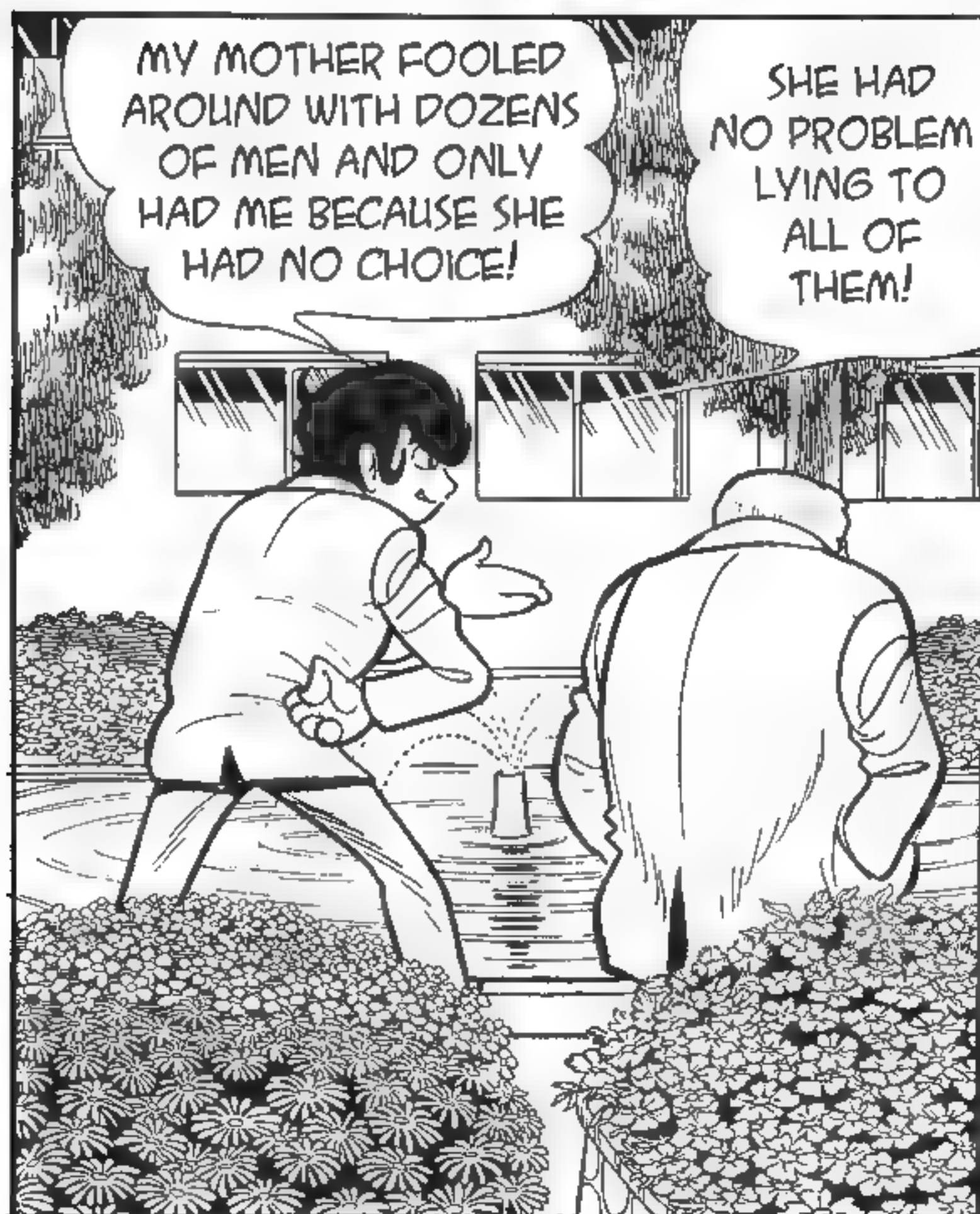
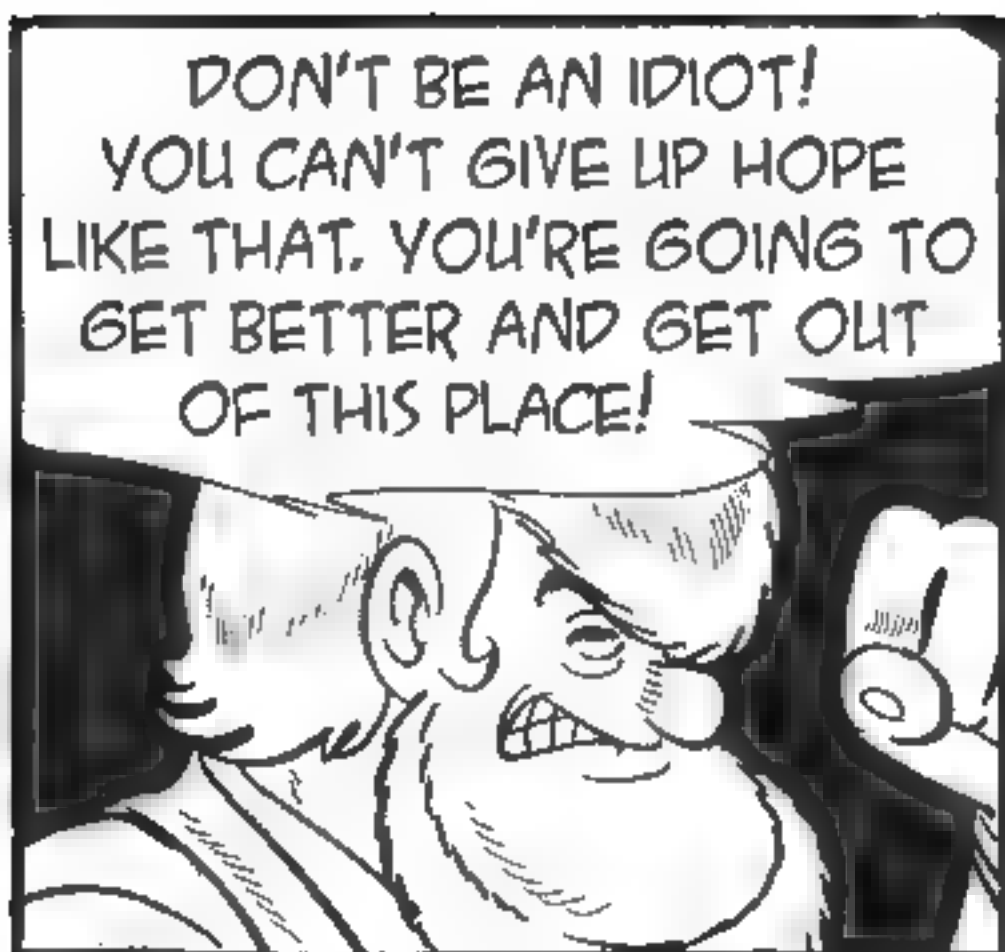
TRAGIC, ISN'T IT?

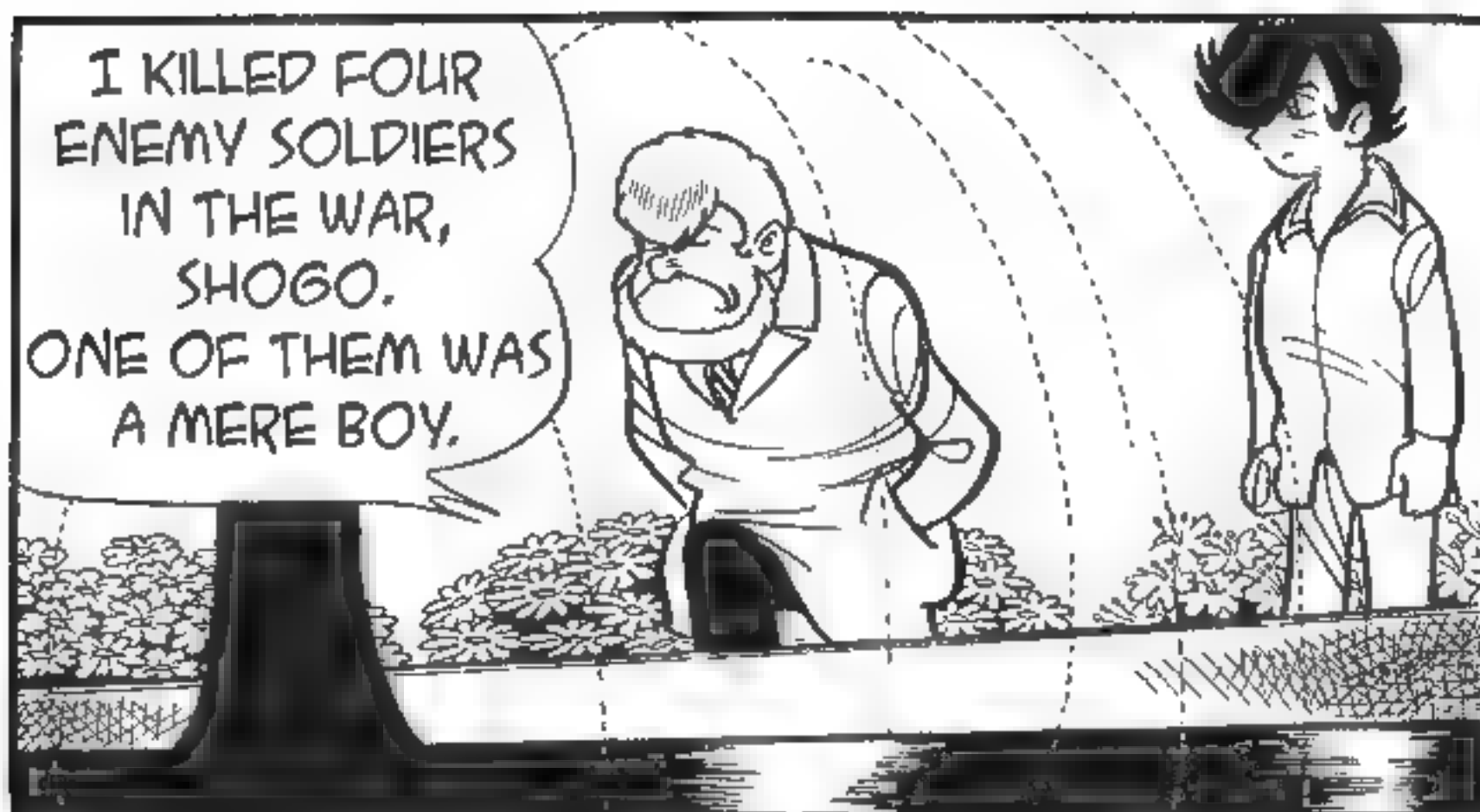


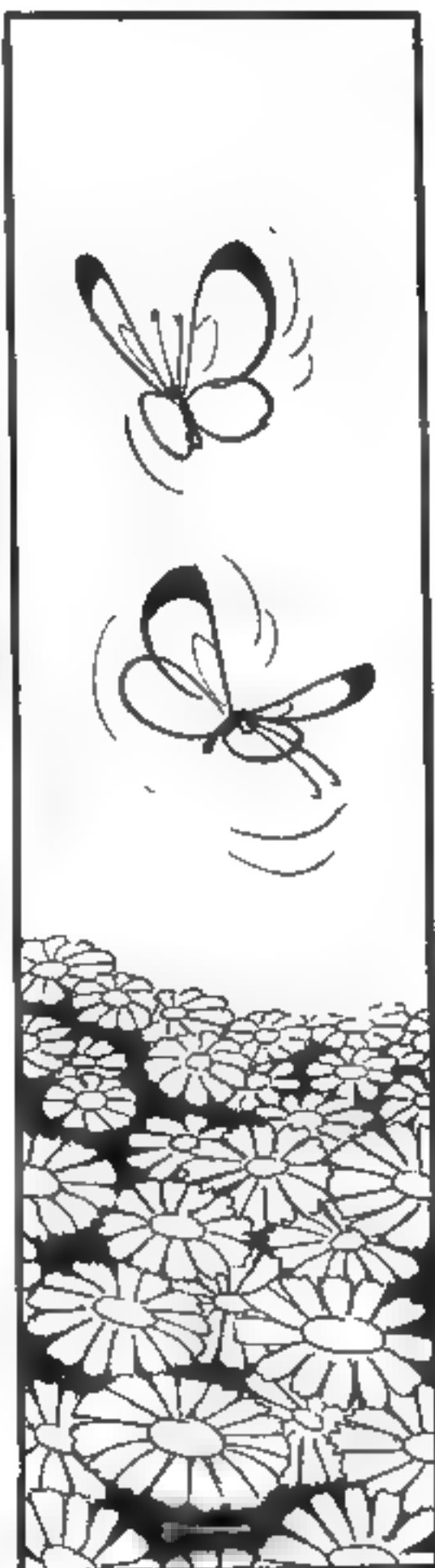
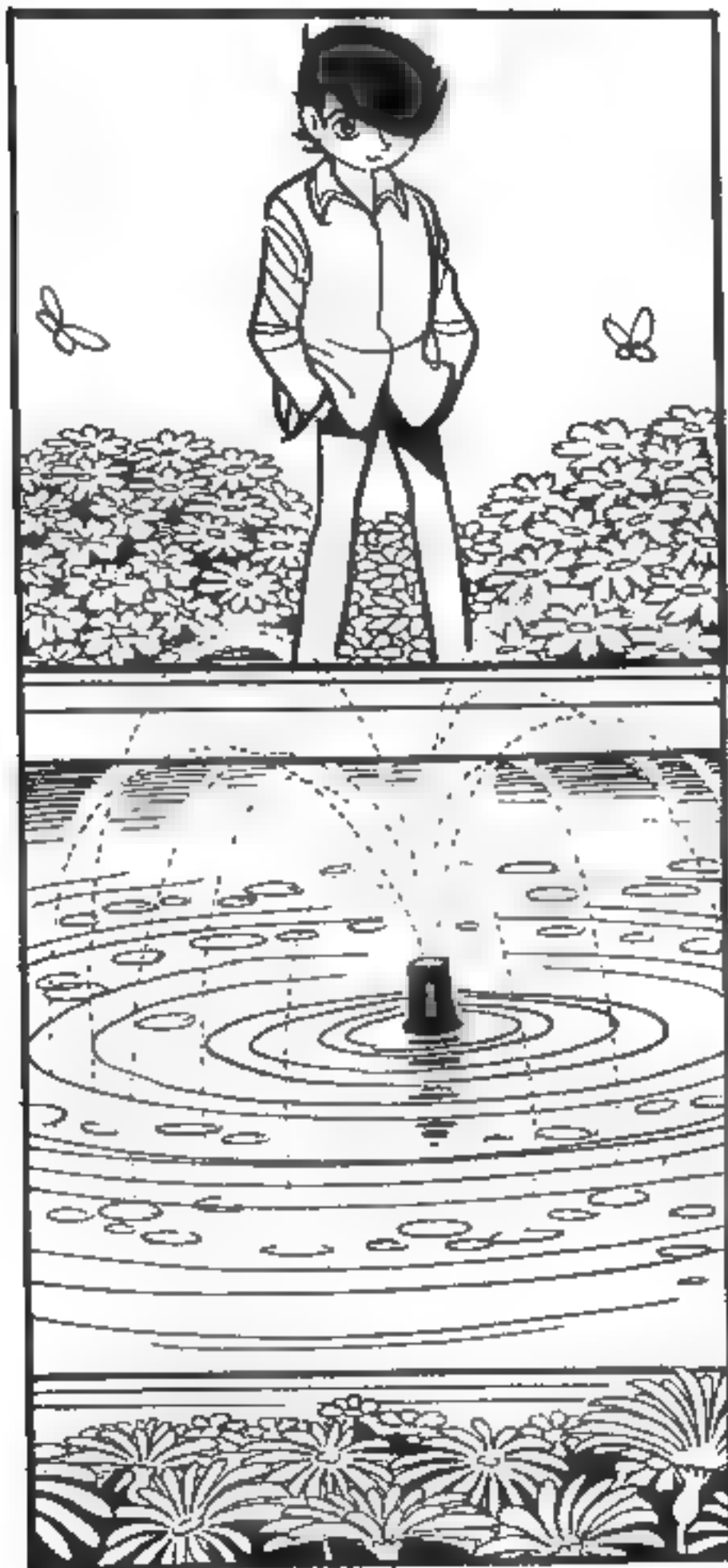


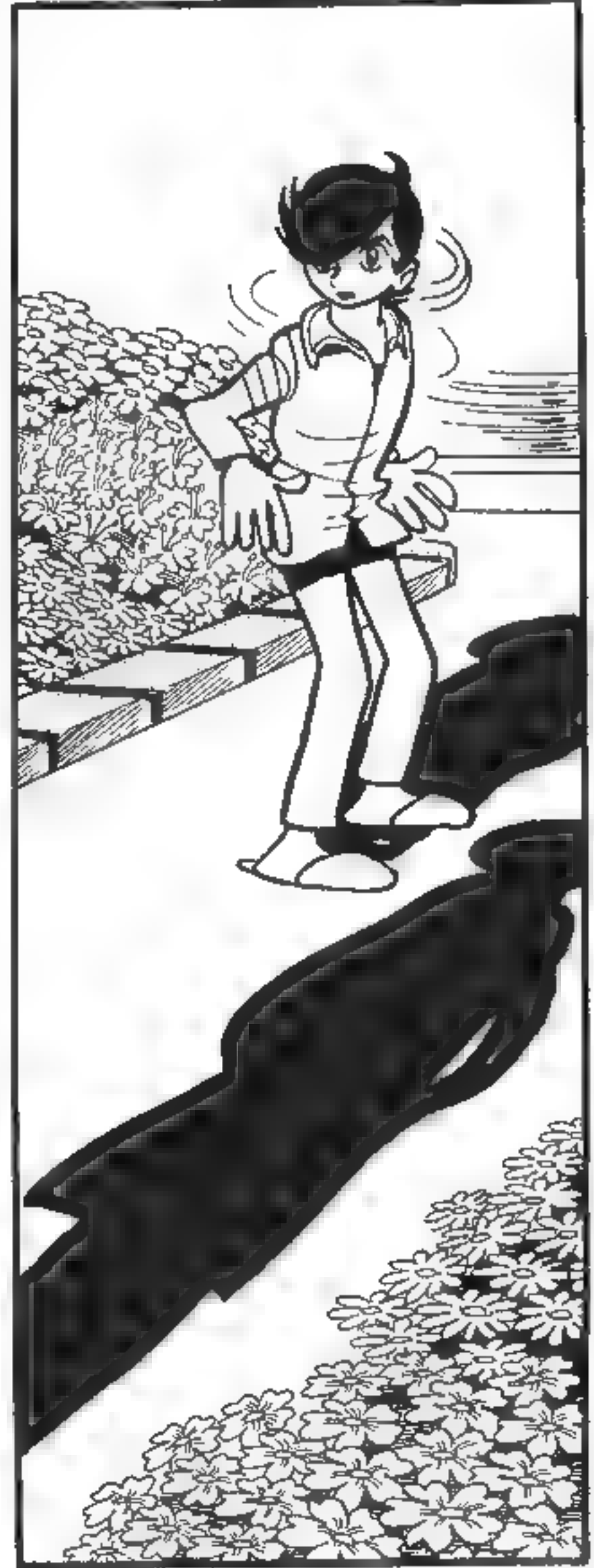
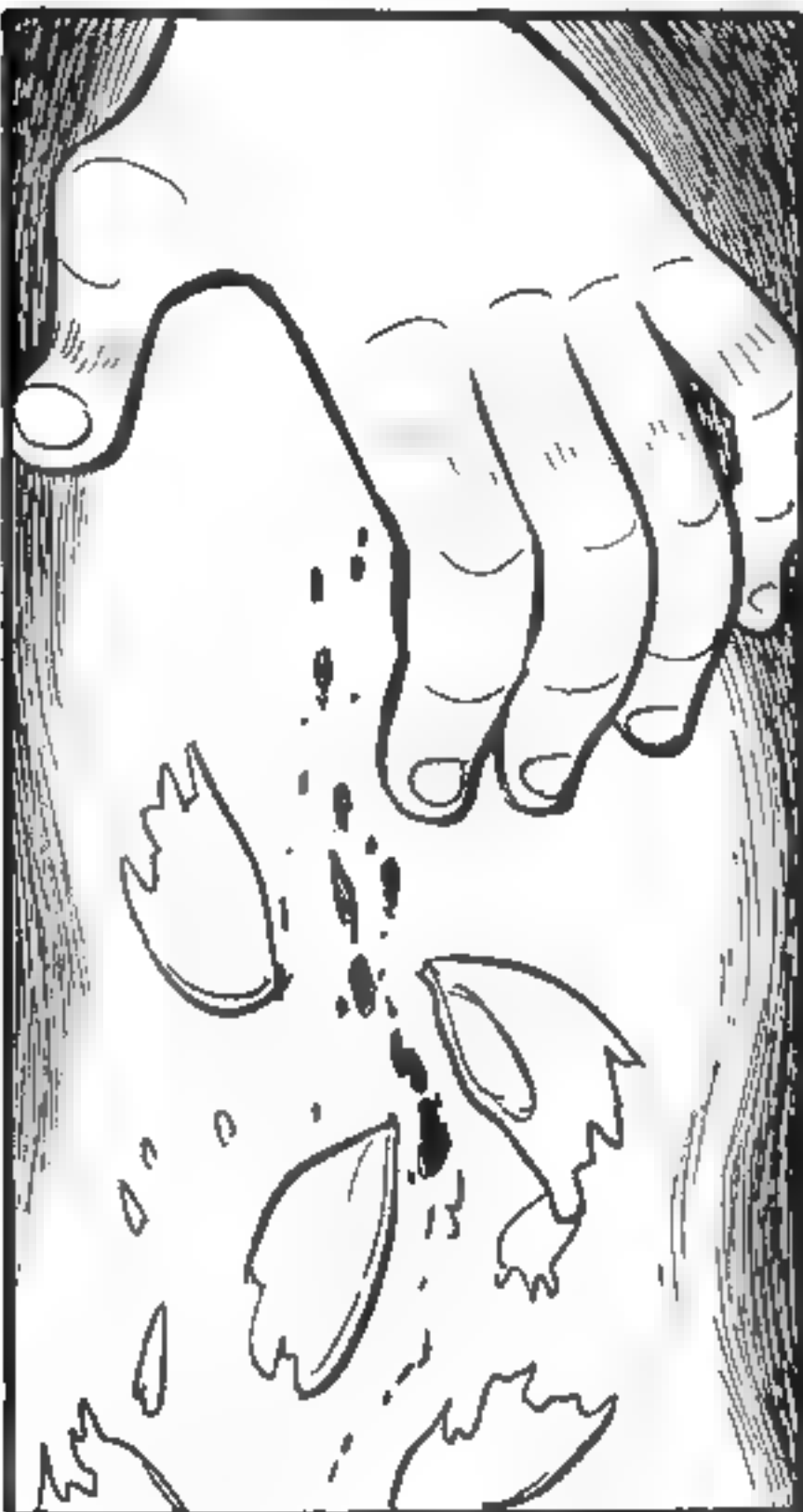
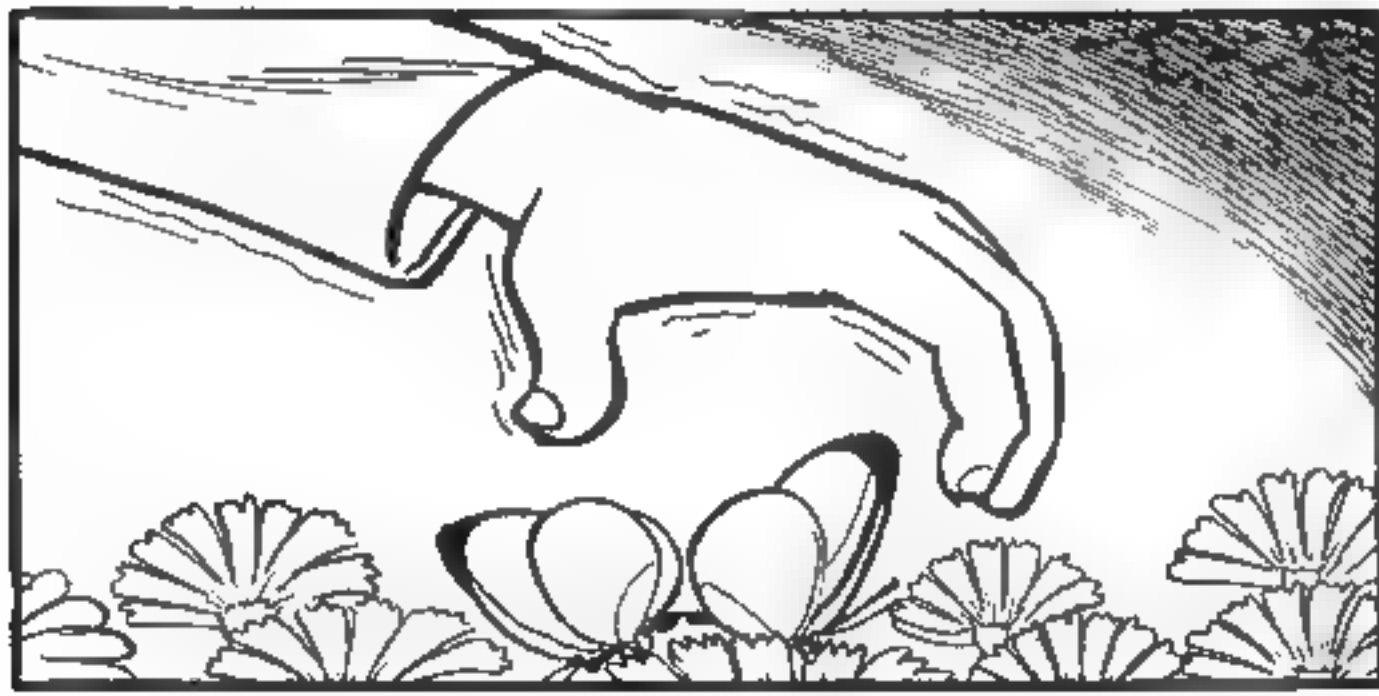
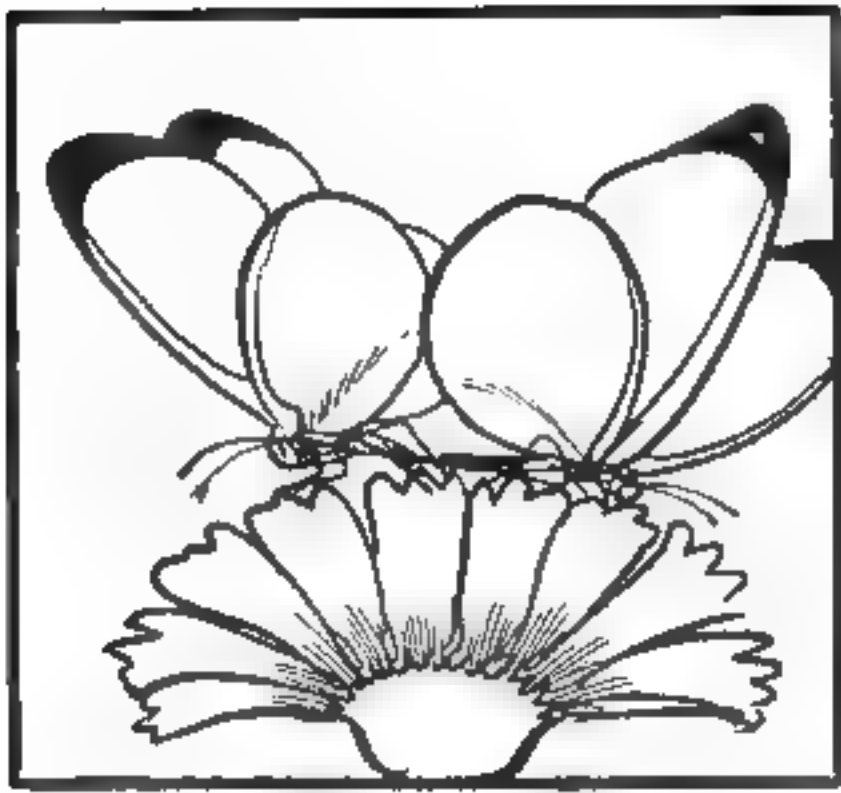


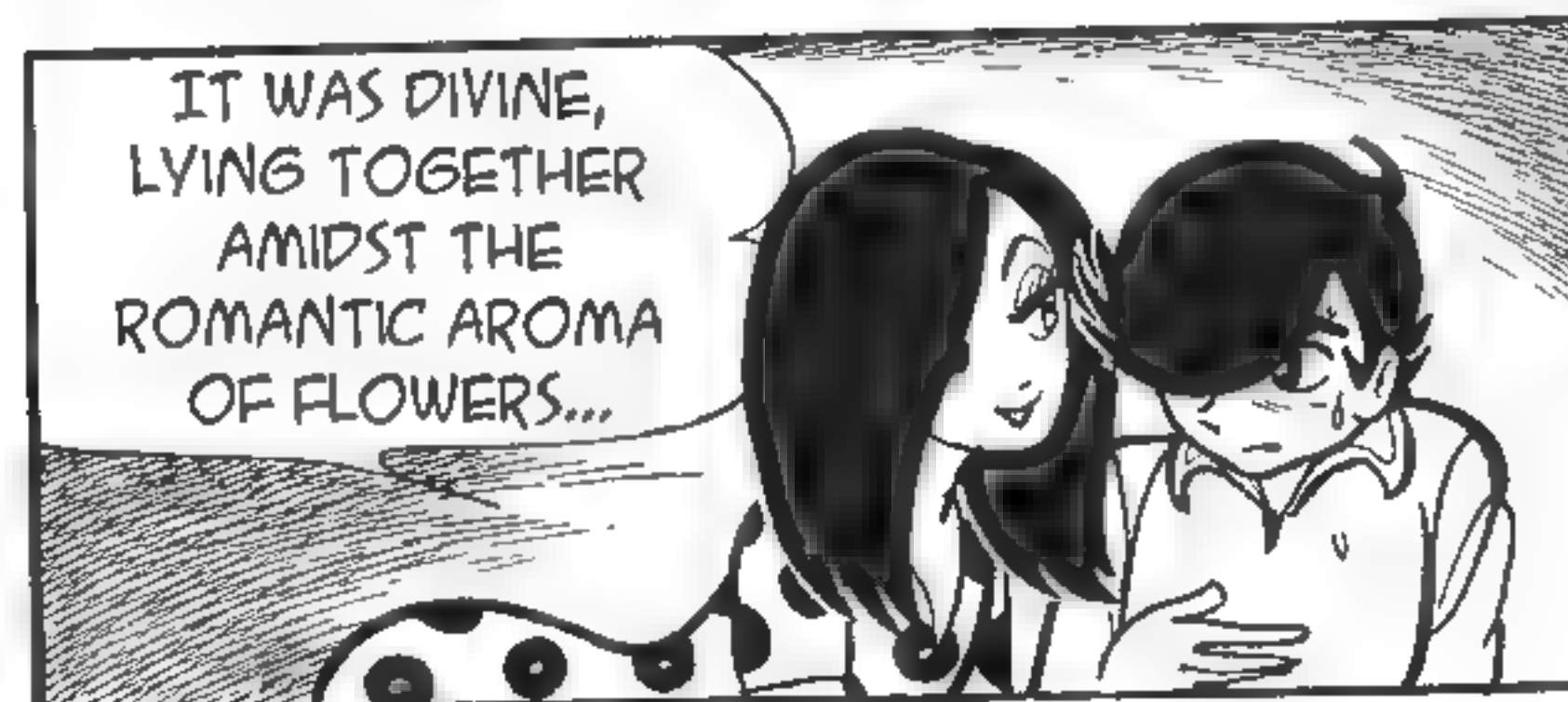


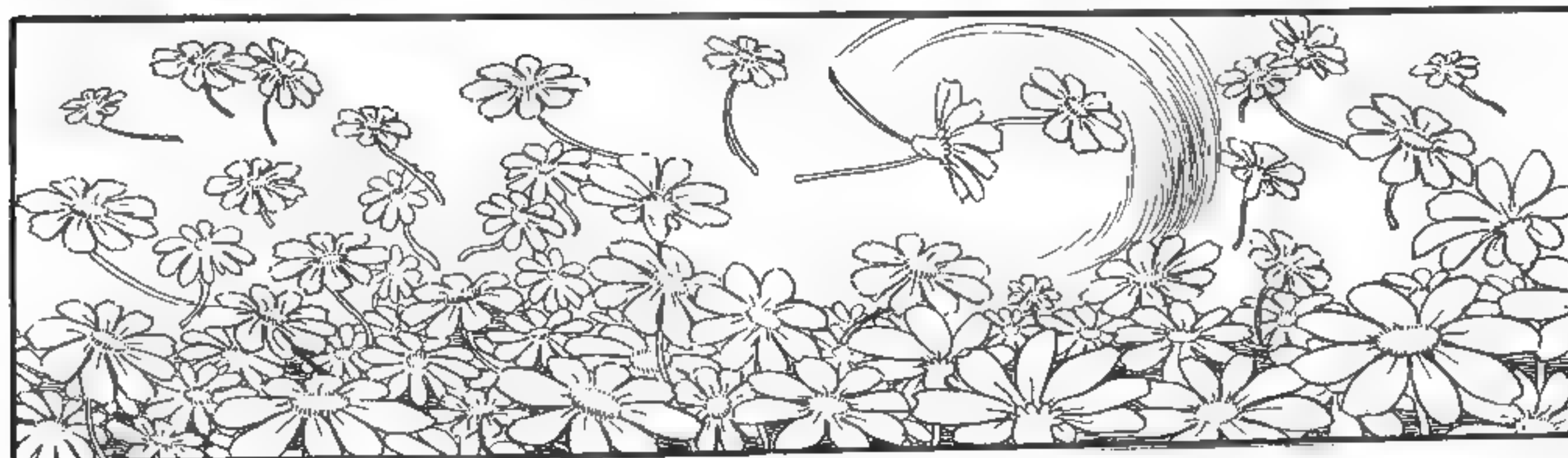
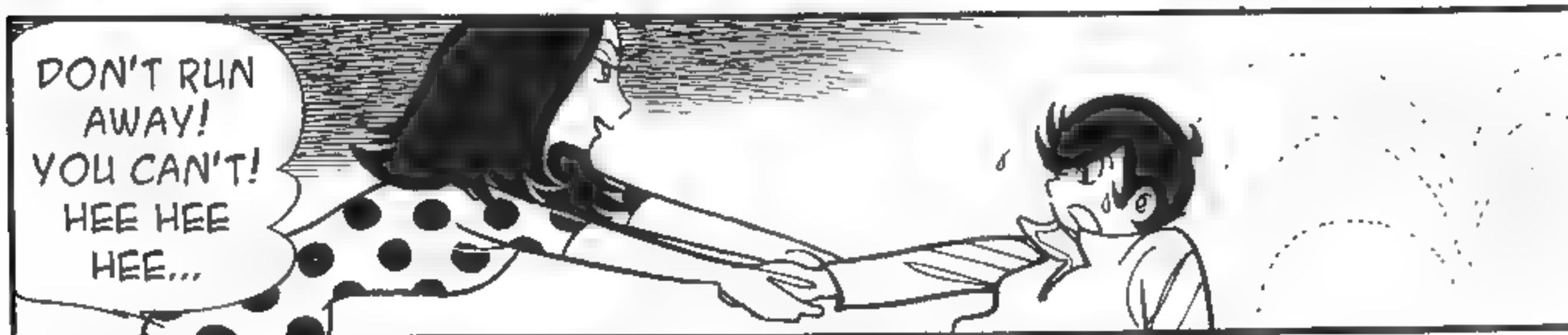
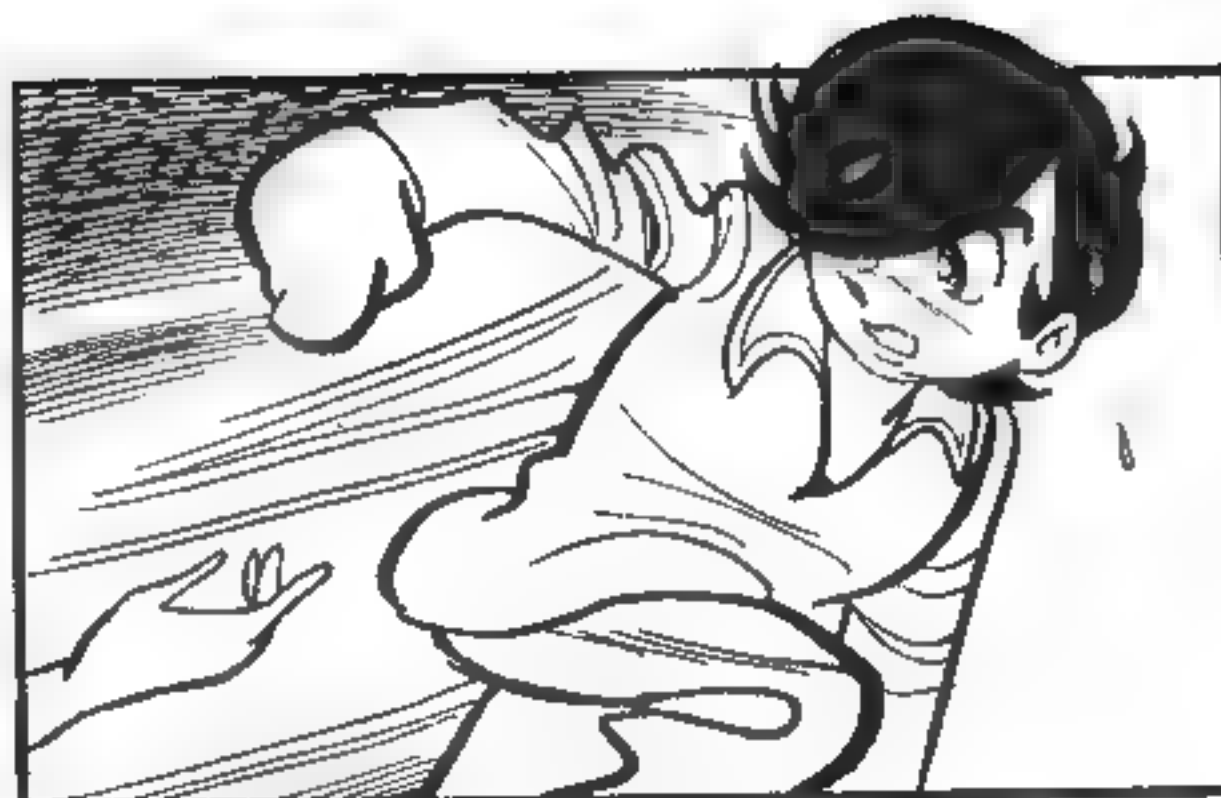


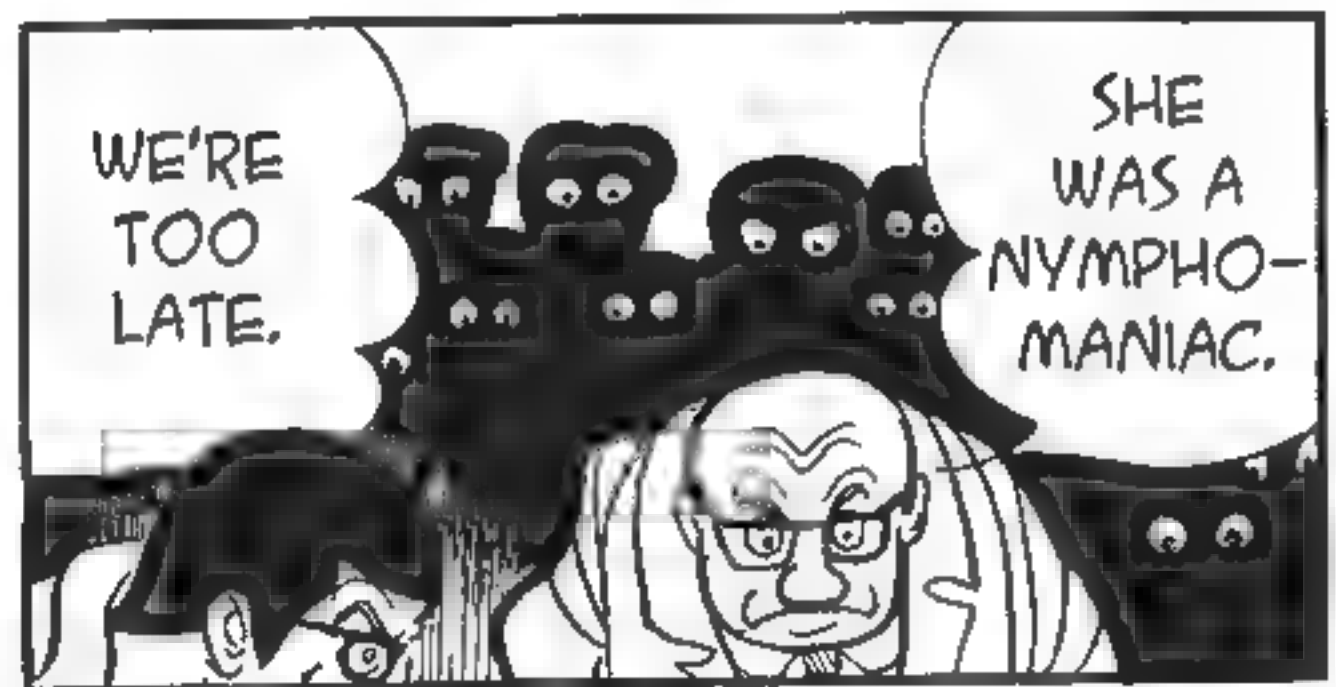


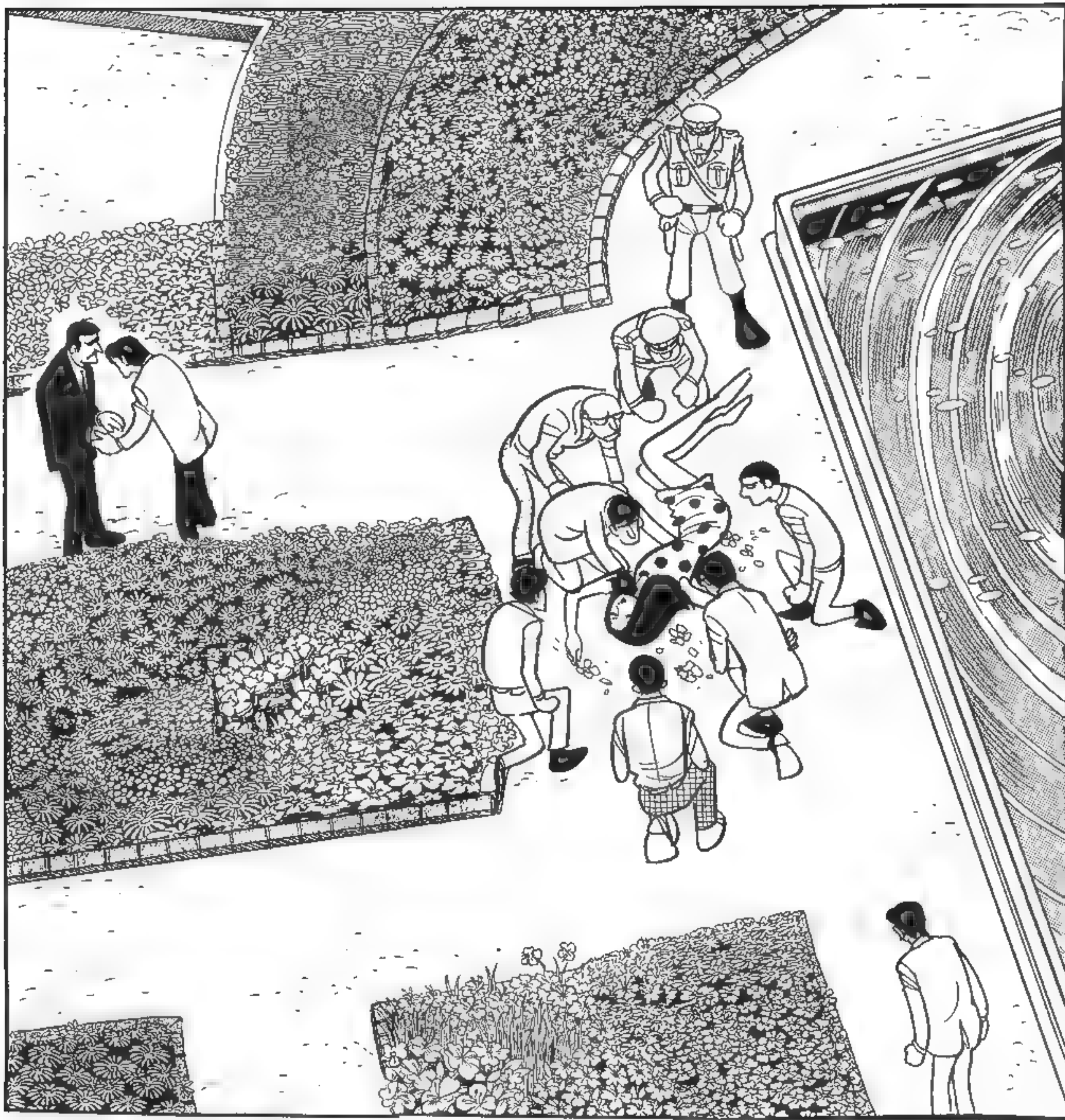










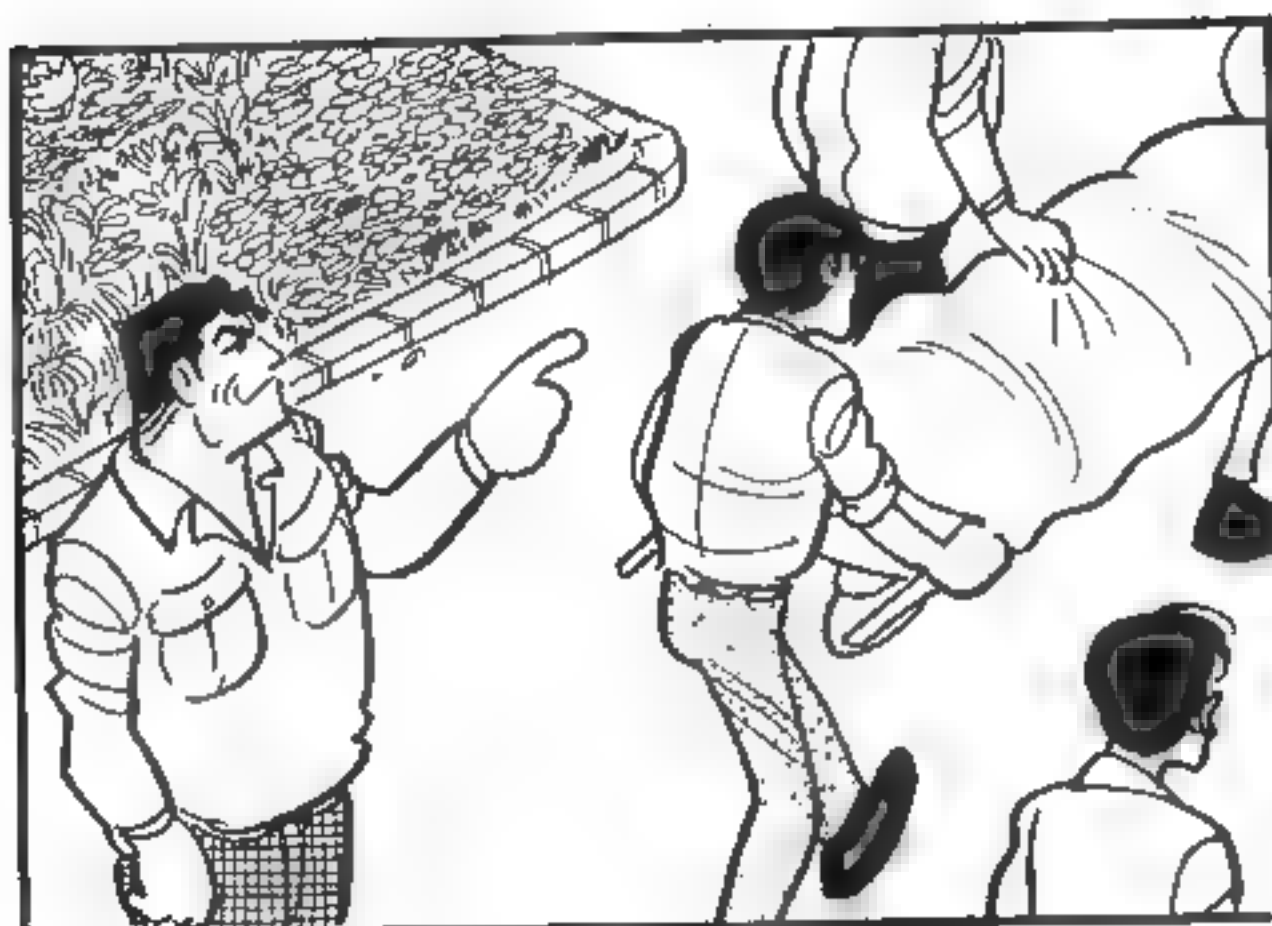
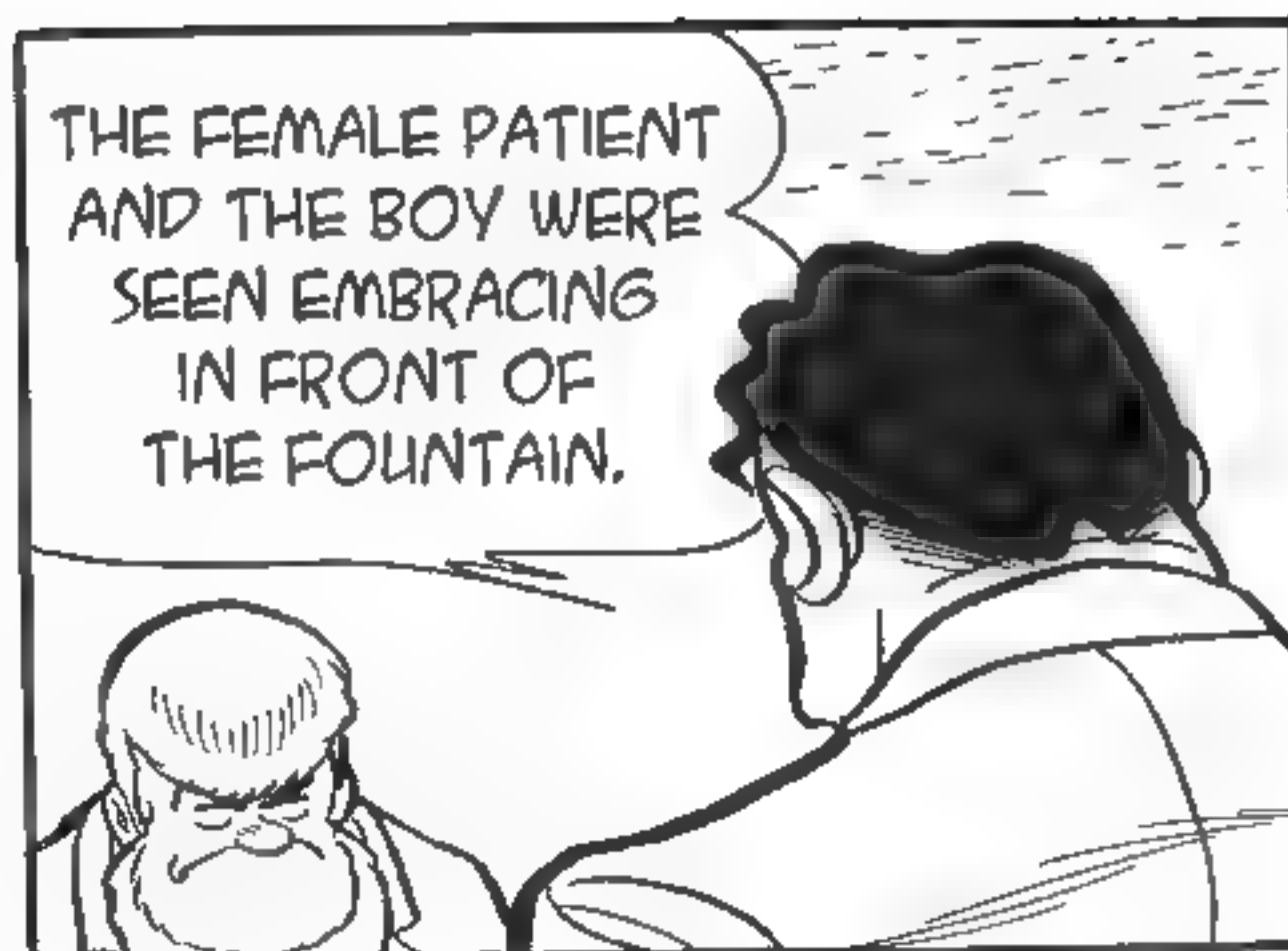


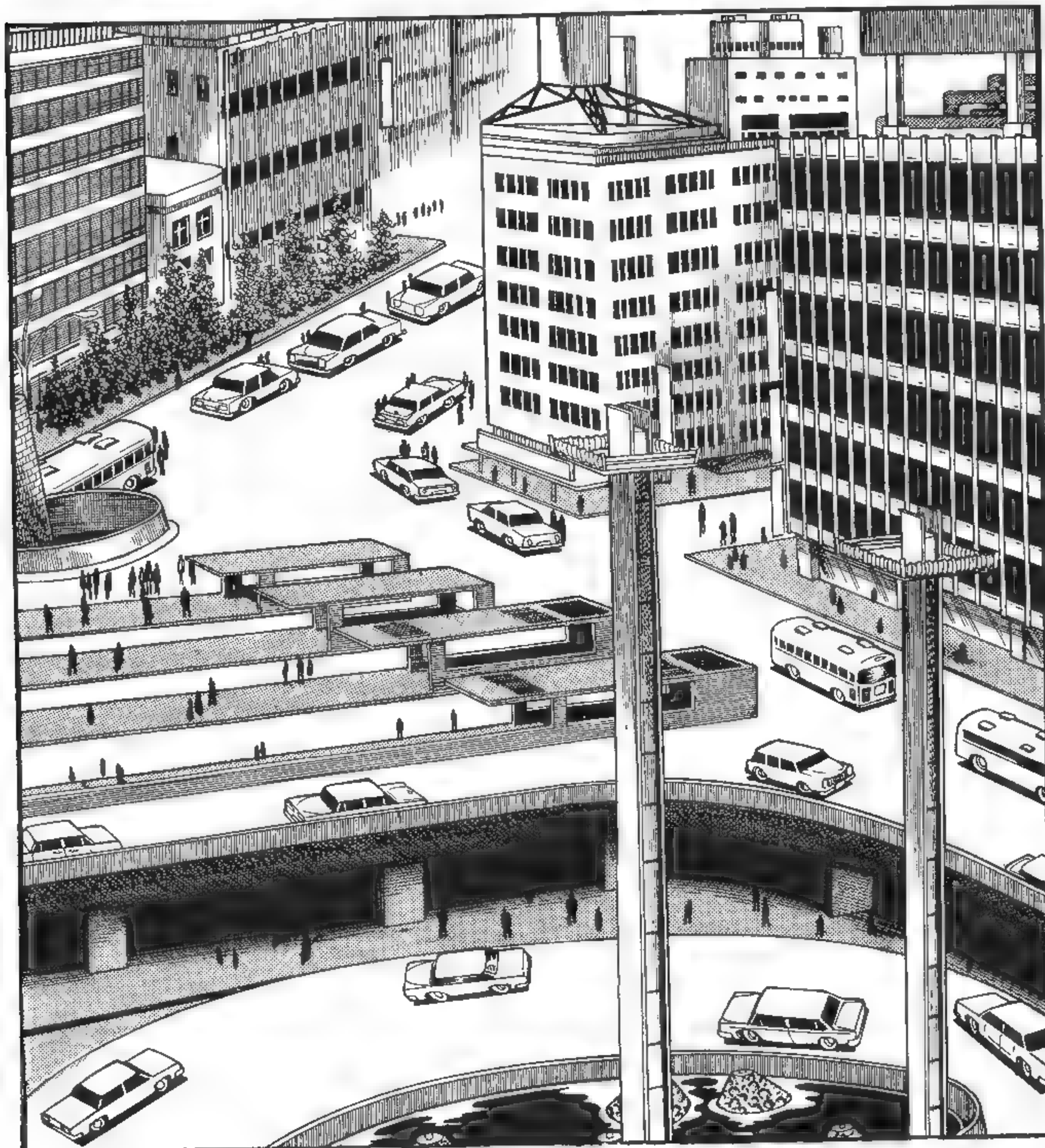
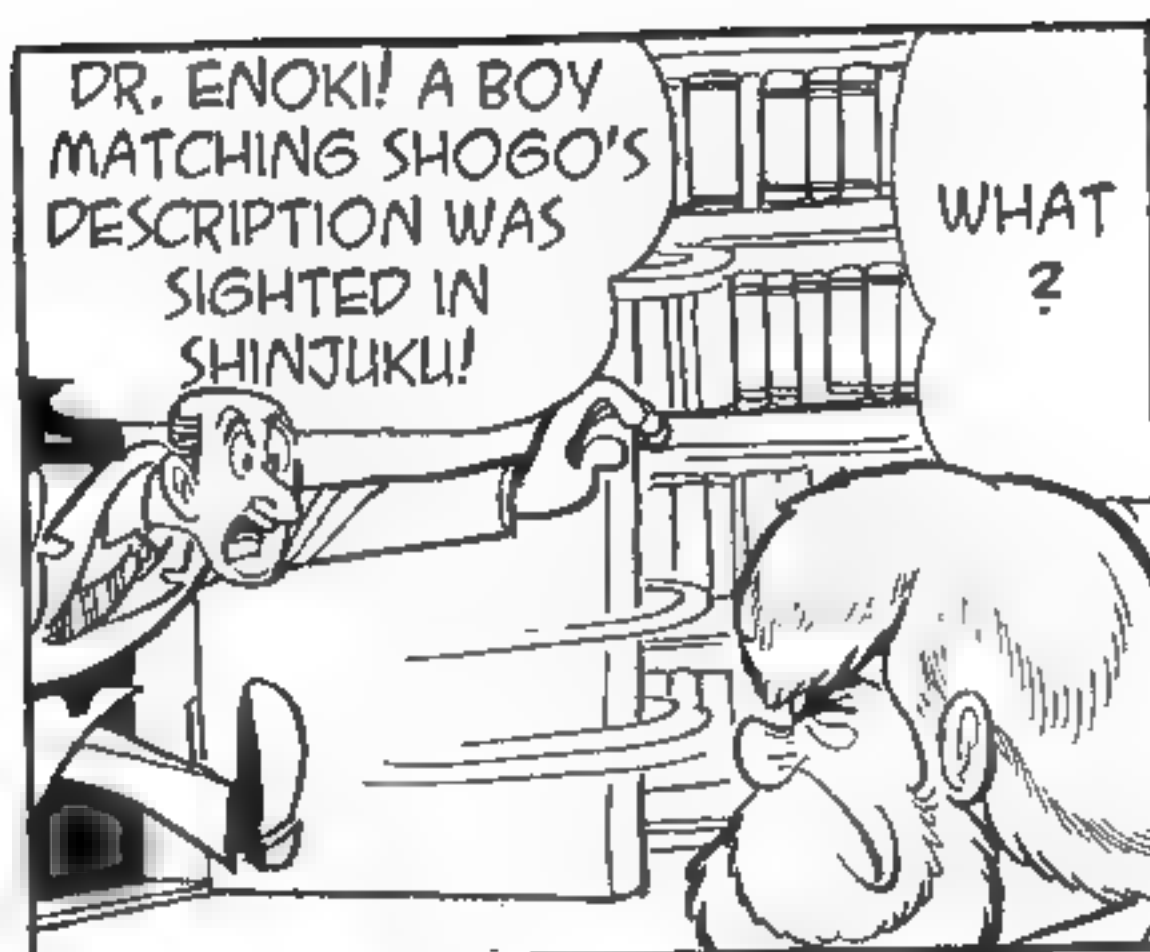
WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE AUTOPSY, BUT IT SEEMS SHE DIED FROM A BLOW TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD:

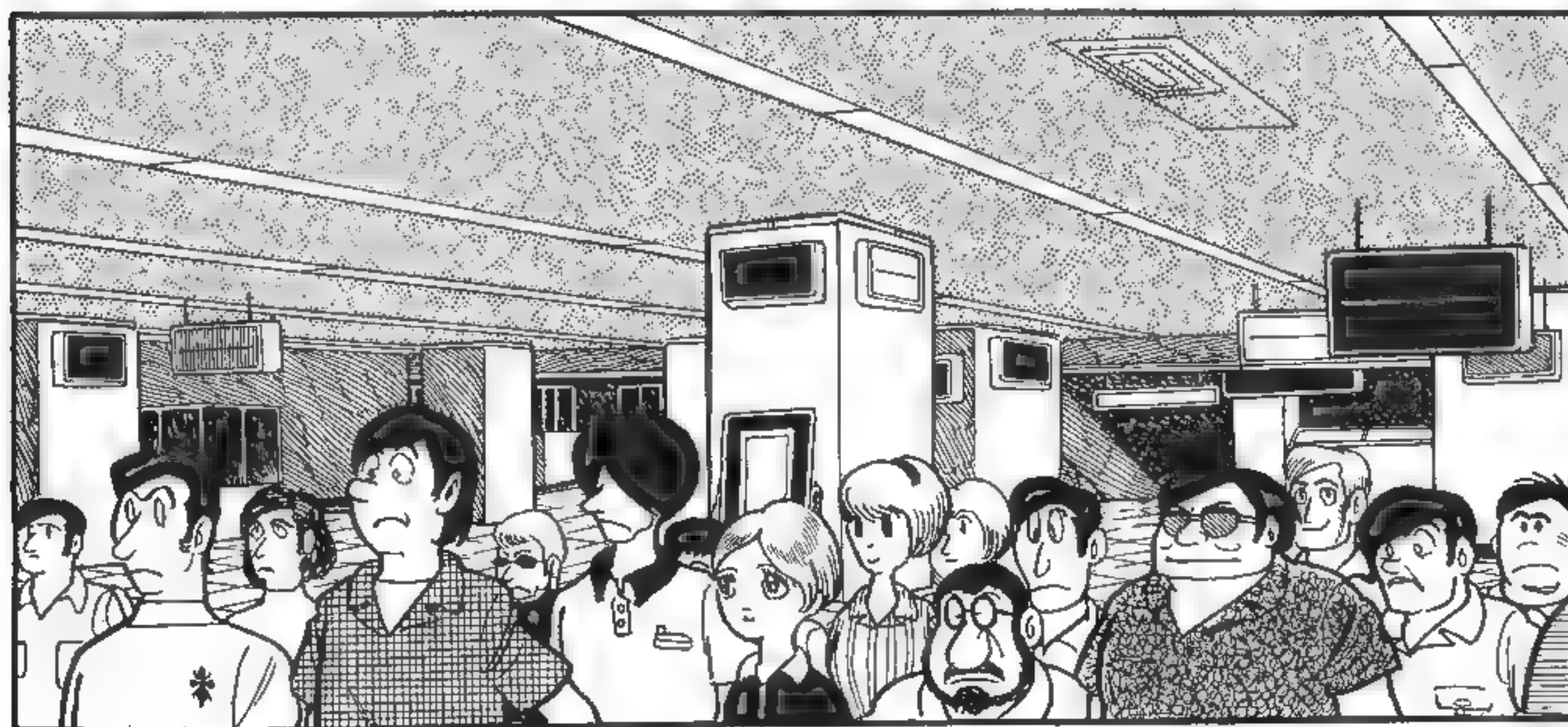
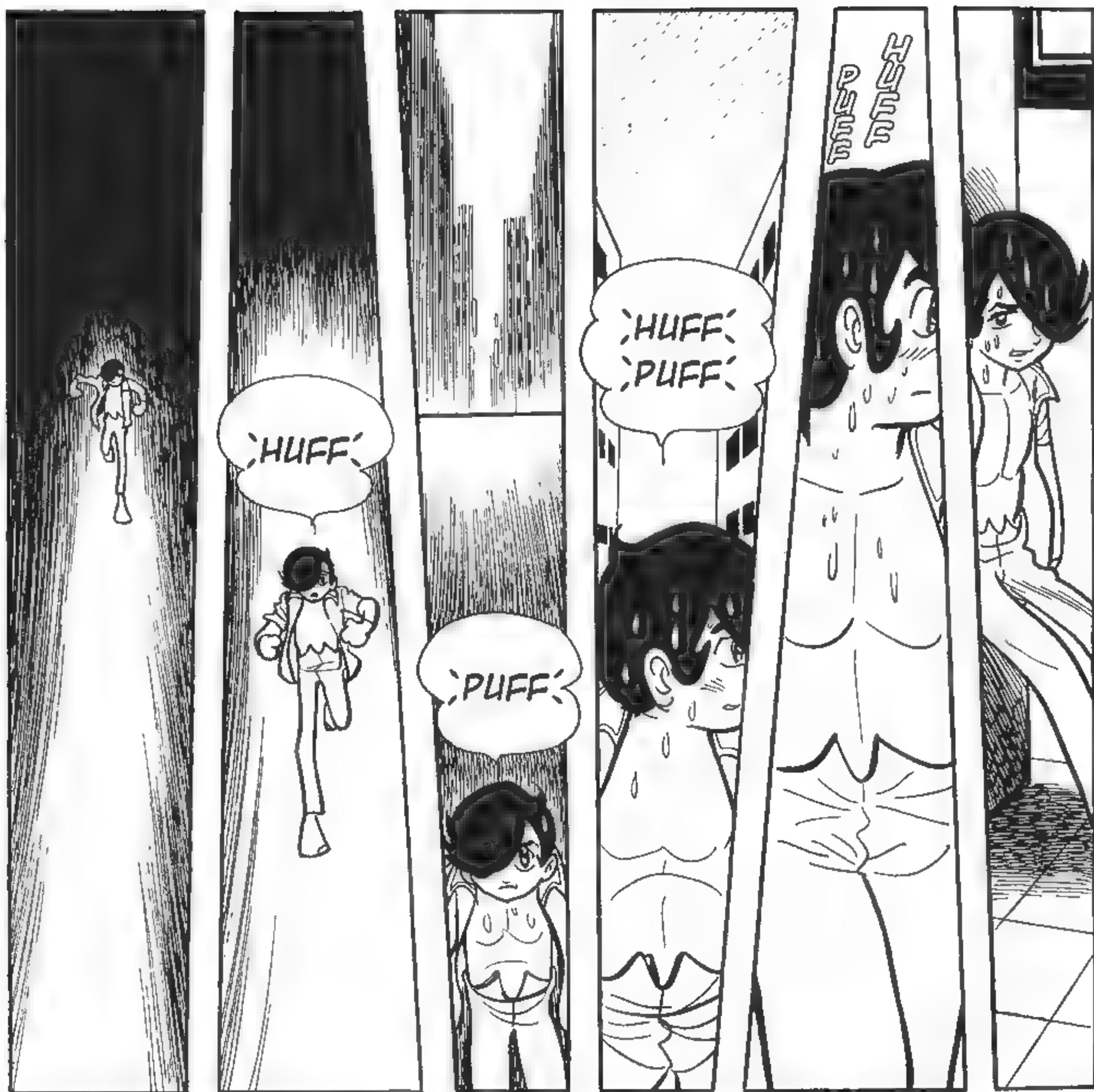
A SKULL FRACTURE CAUSED BY A BLUNT OBJECT.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SHOGO?

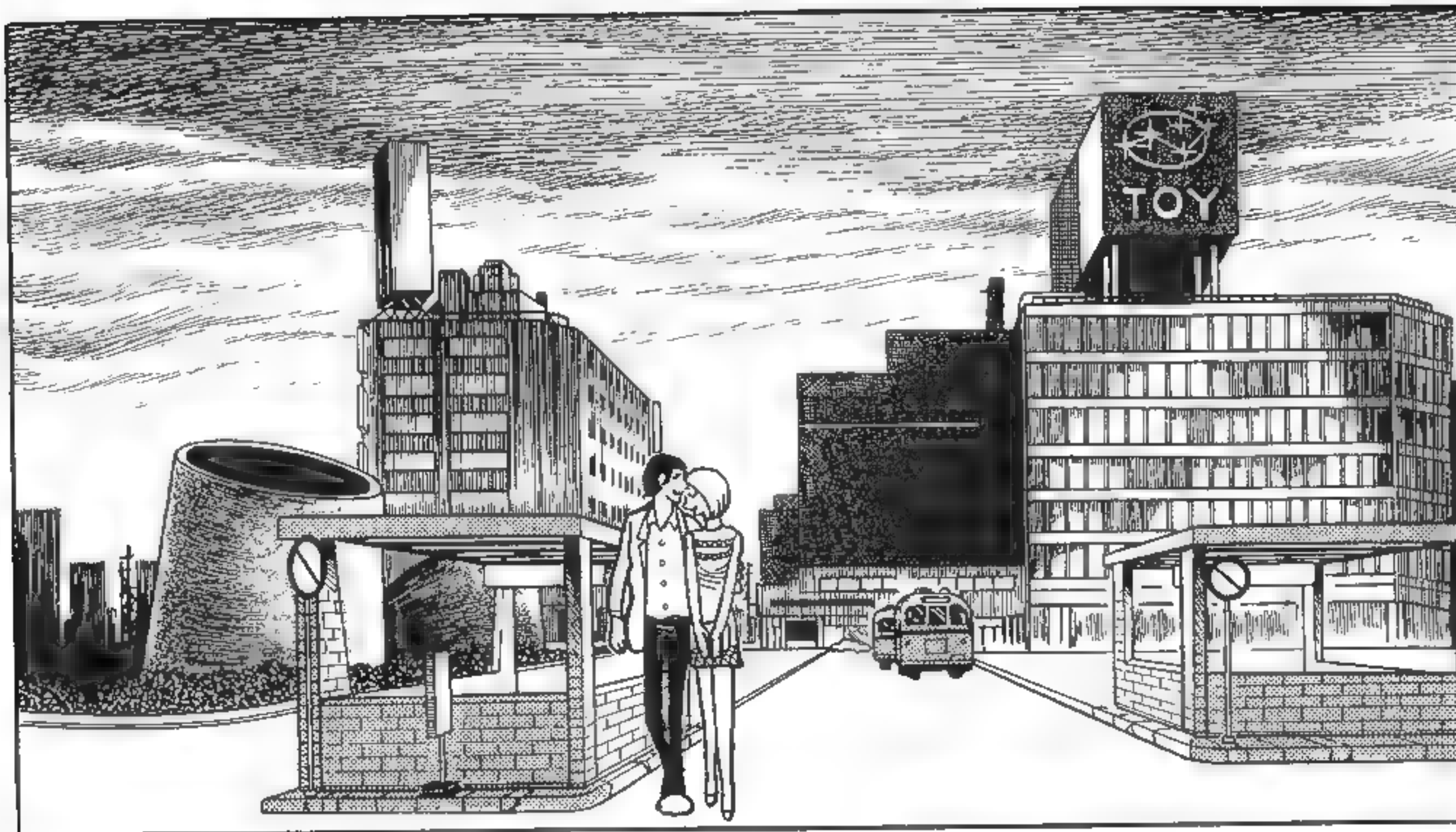
HERE'S THE DOCTOR TREATING THE BOY WHO ESCAPED.



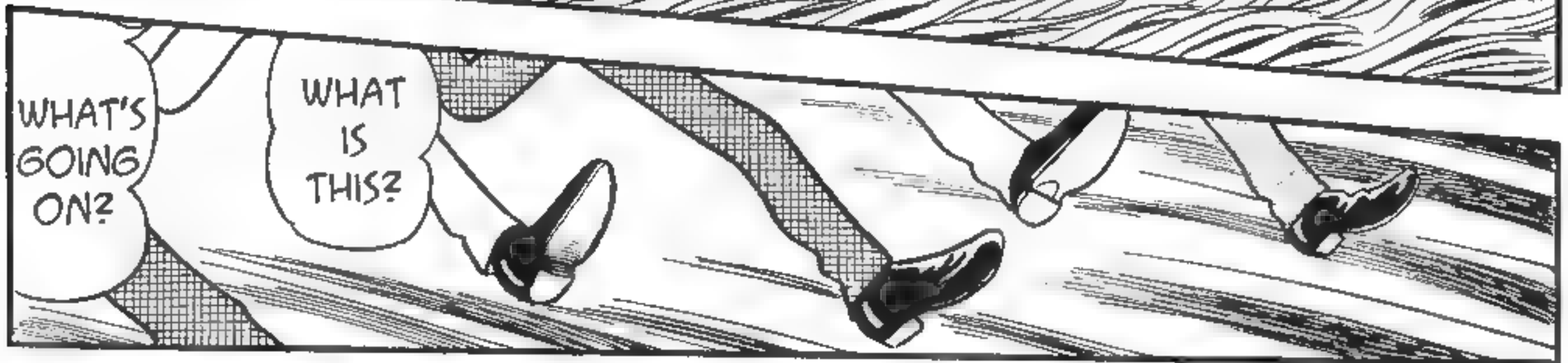
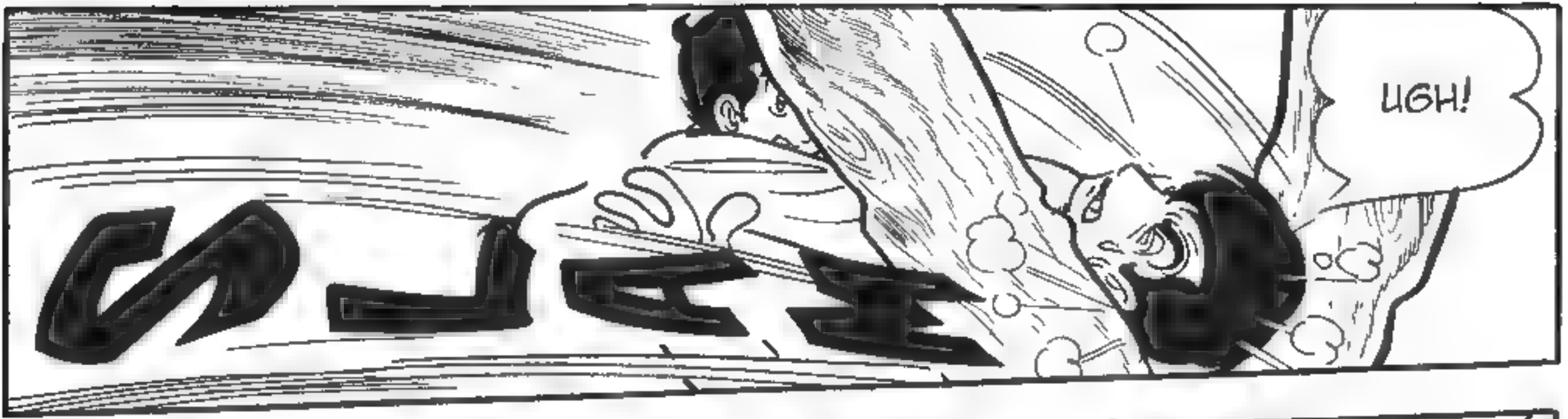


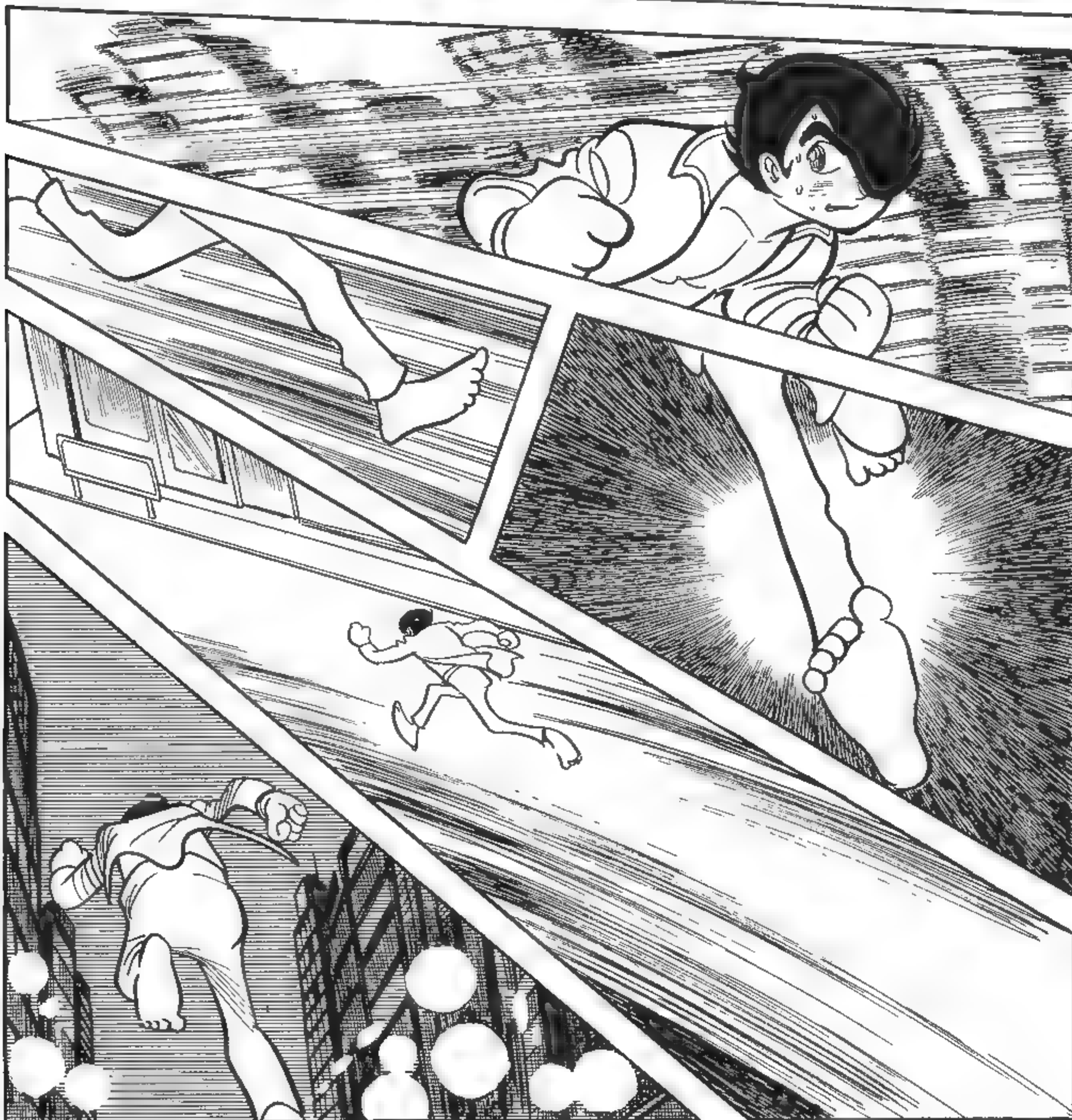


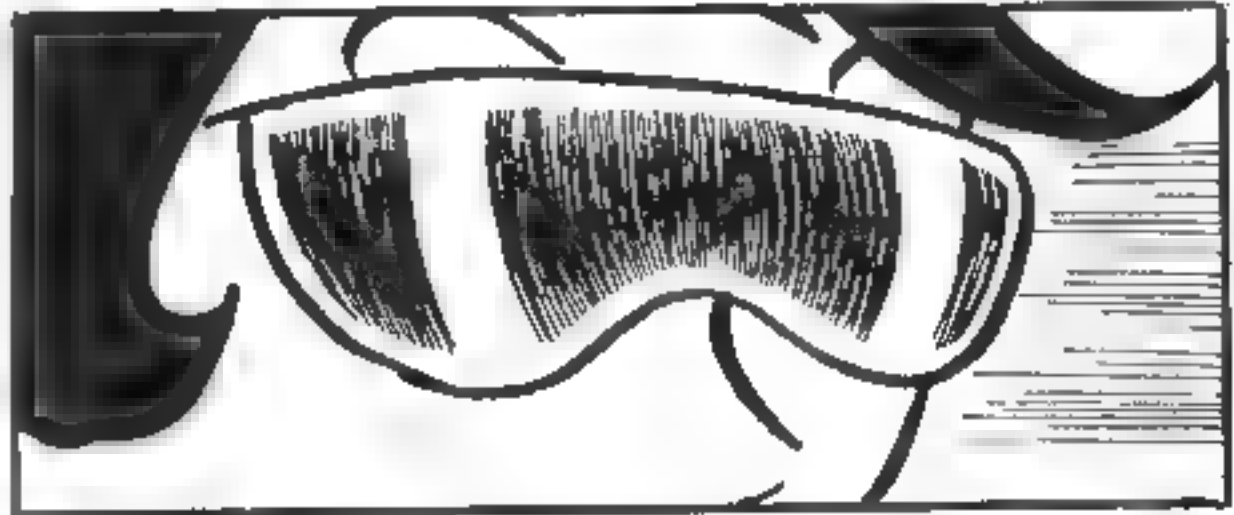
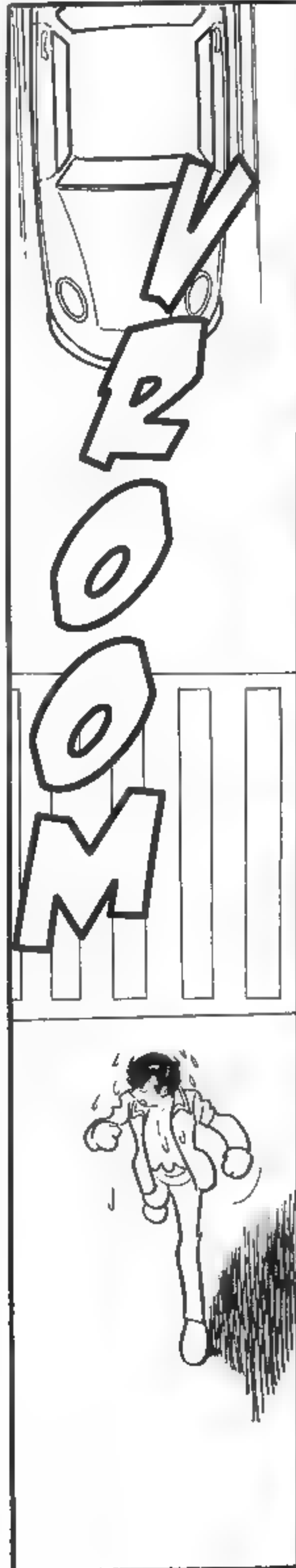
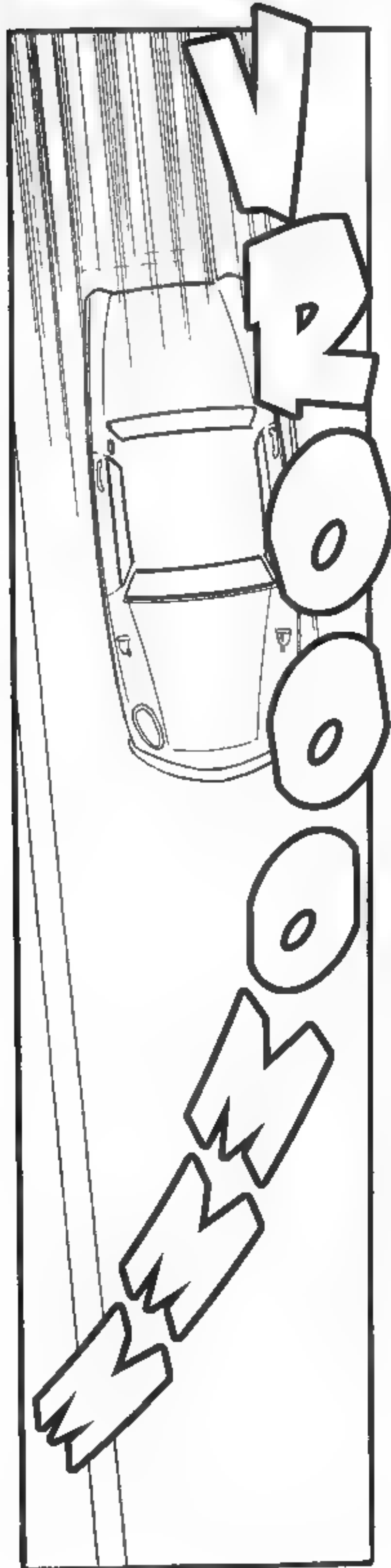


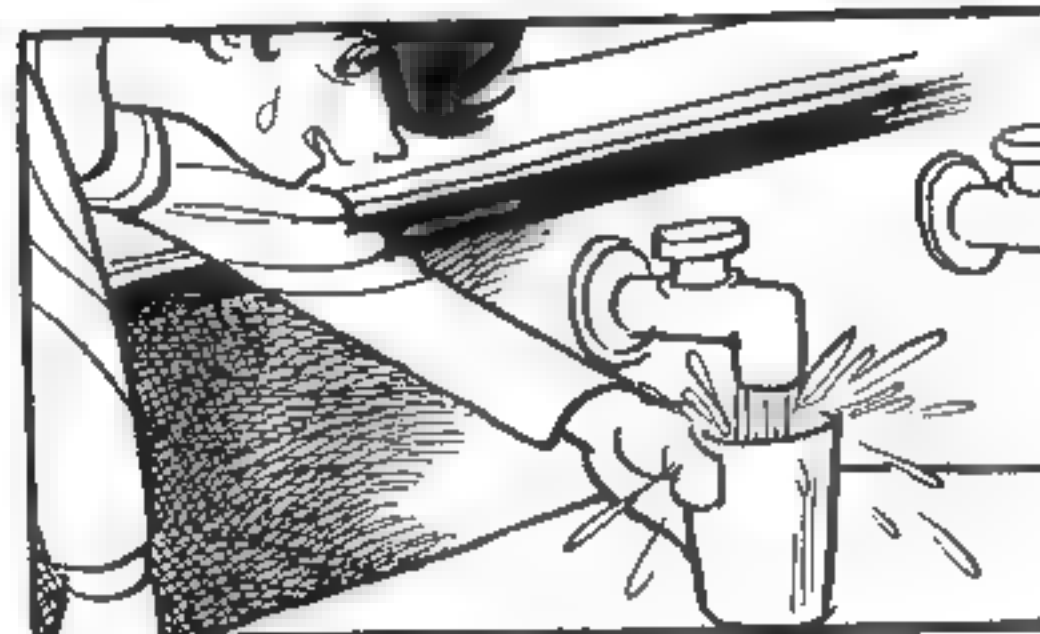
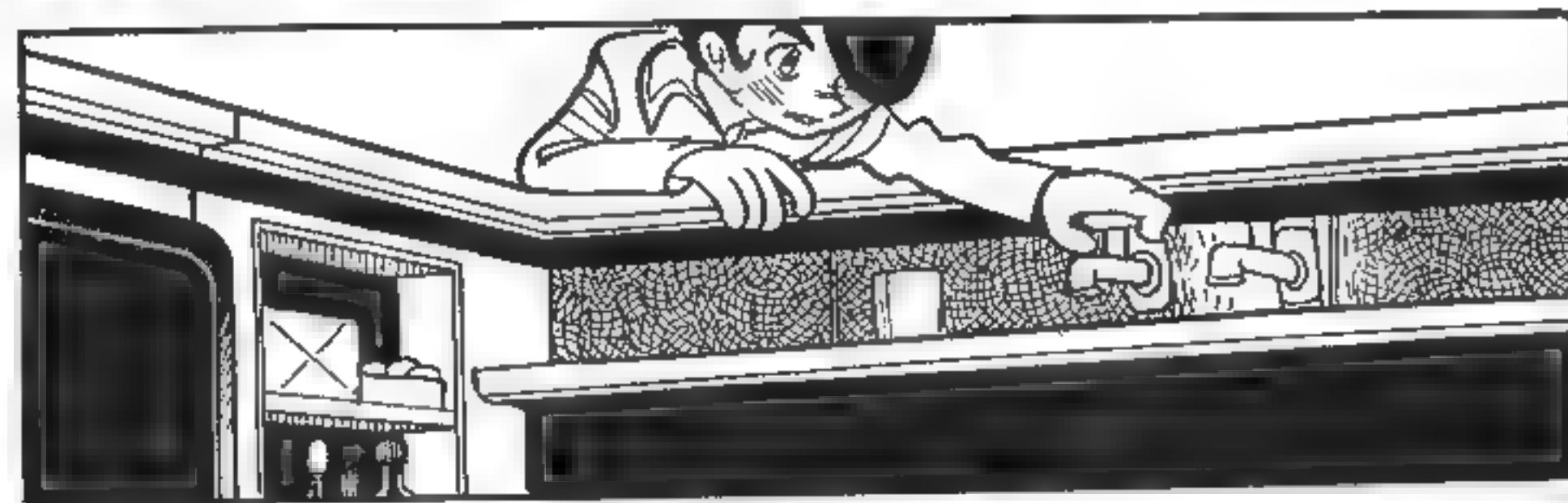
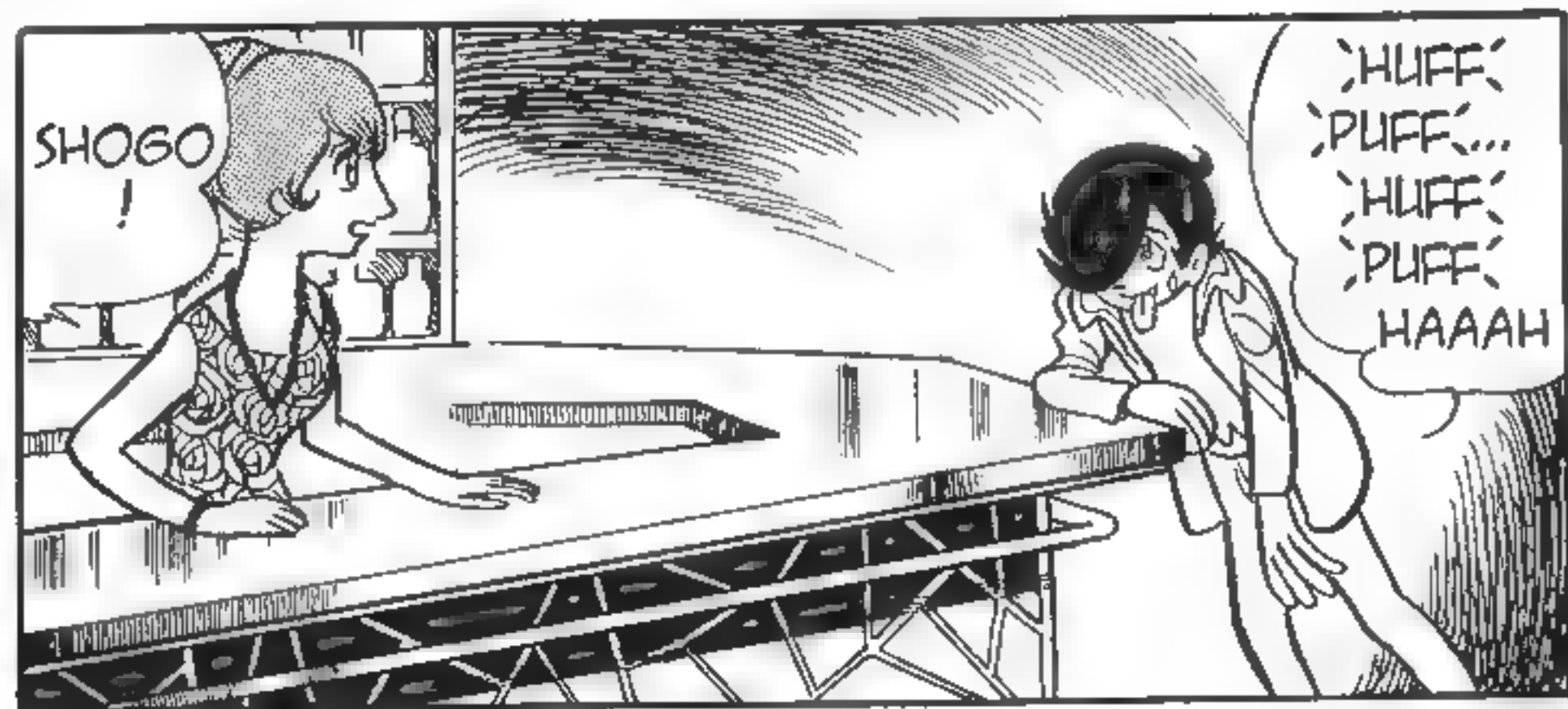
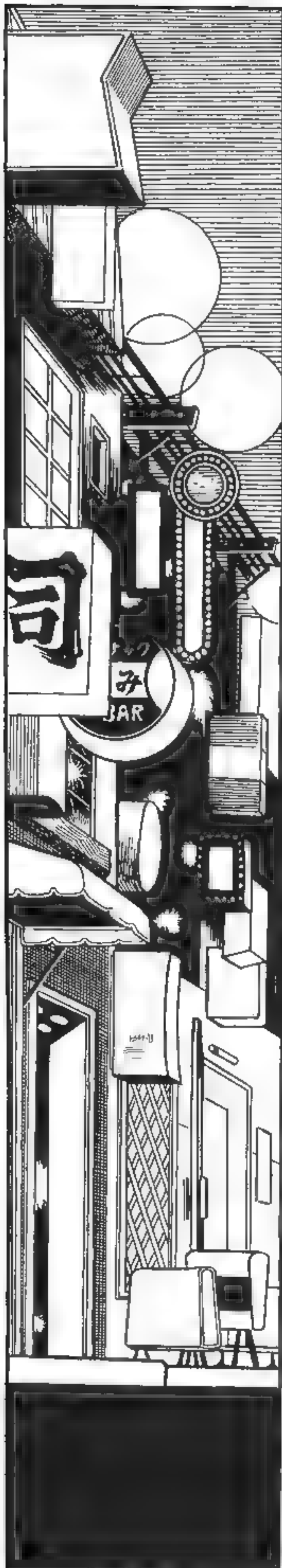




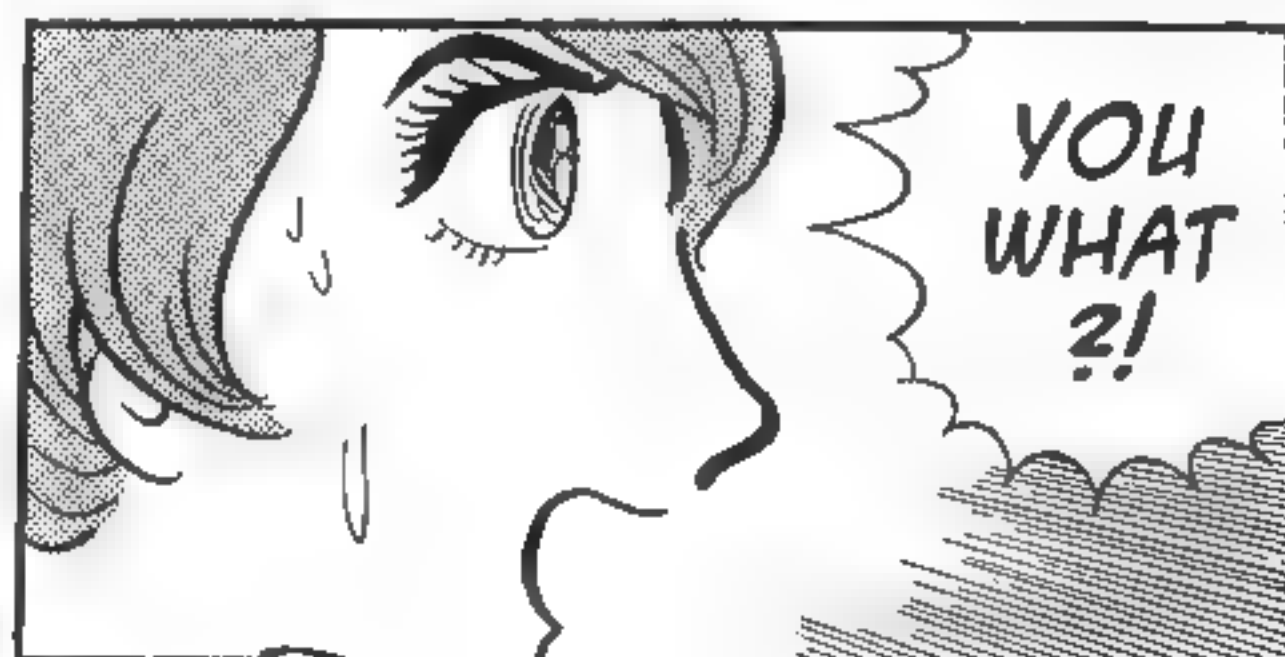
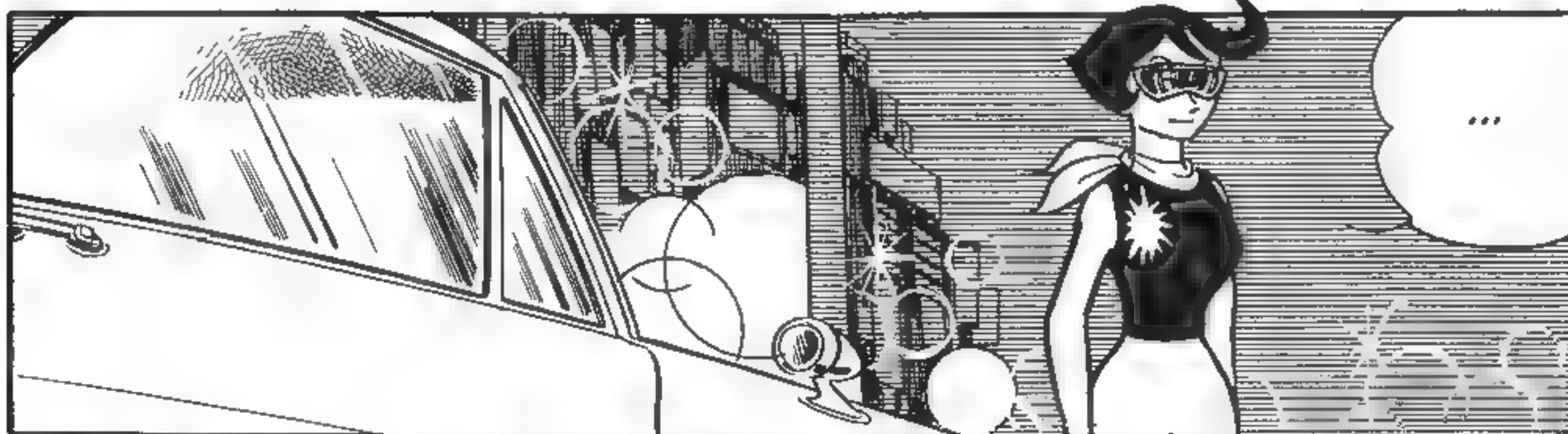


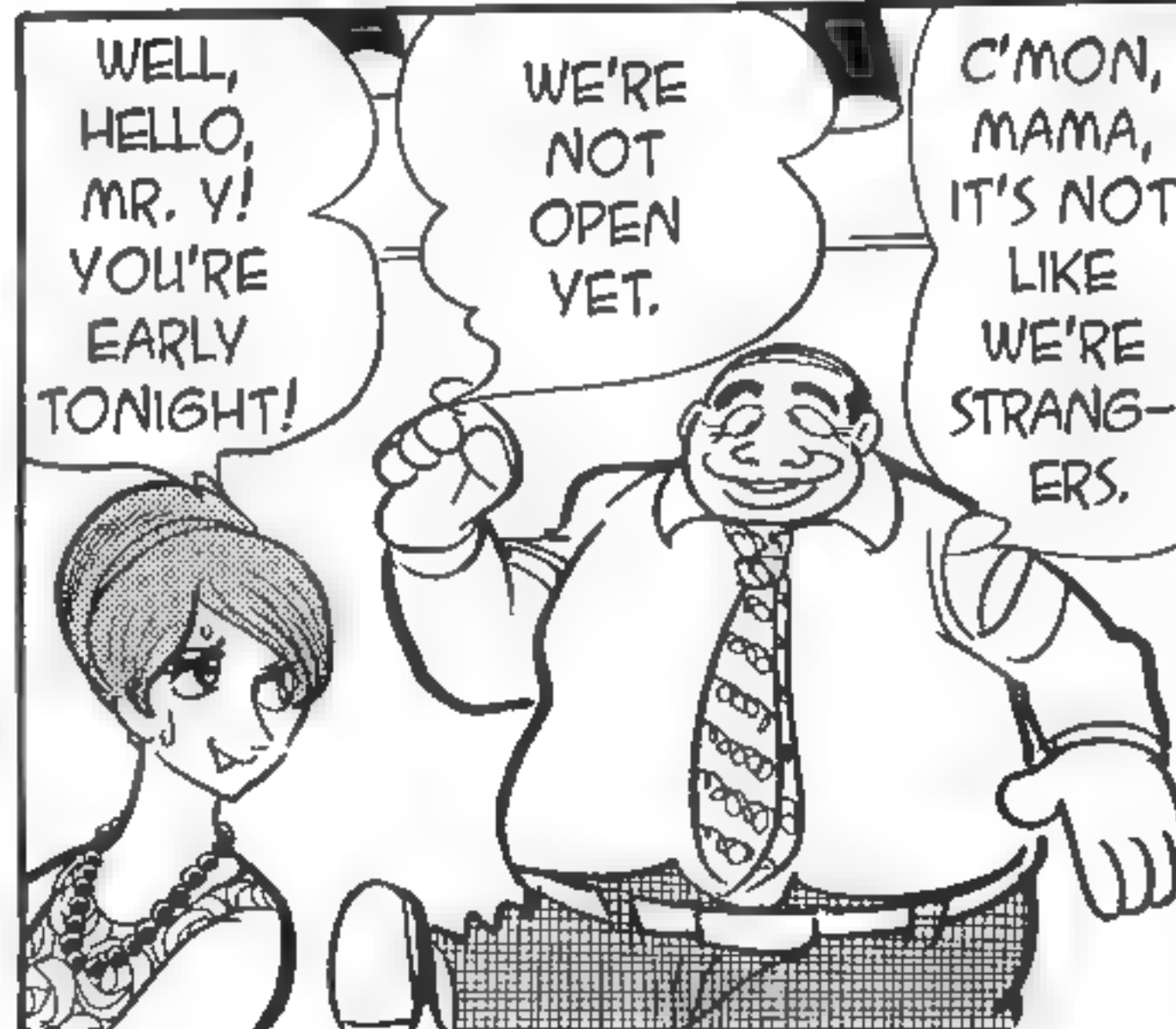
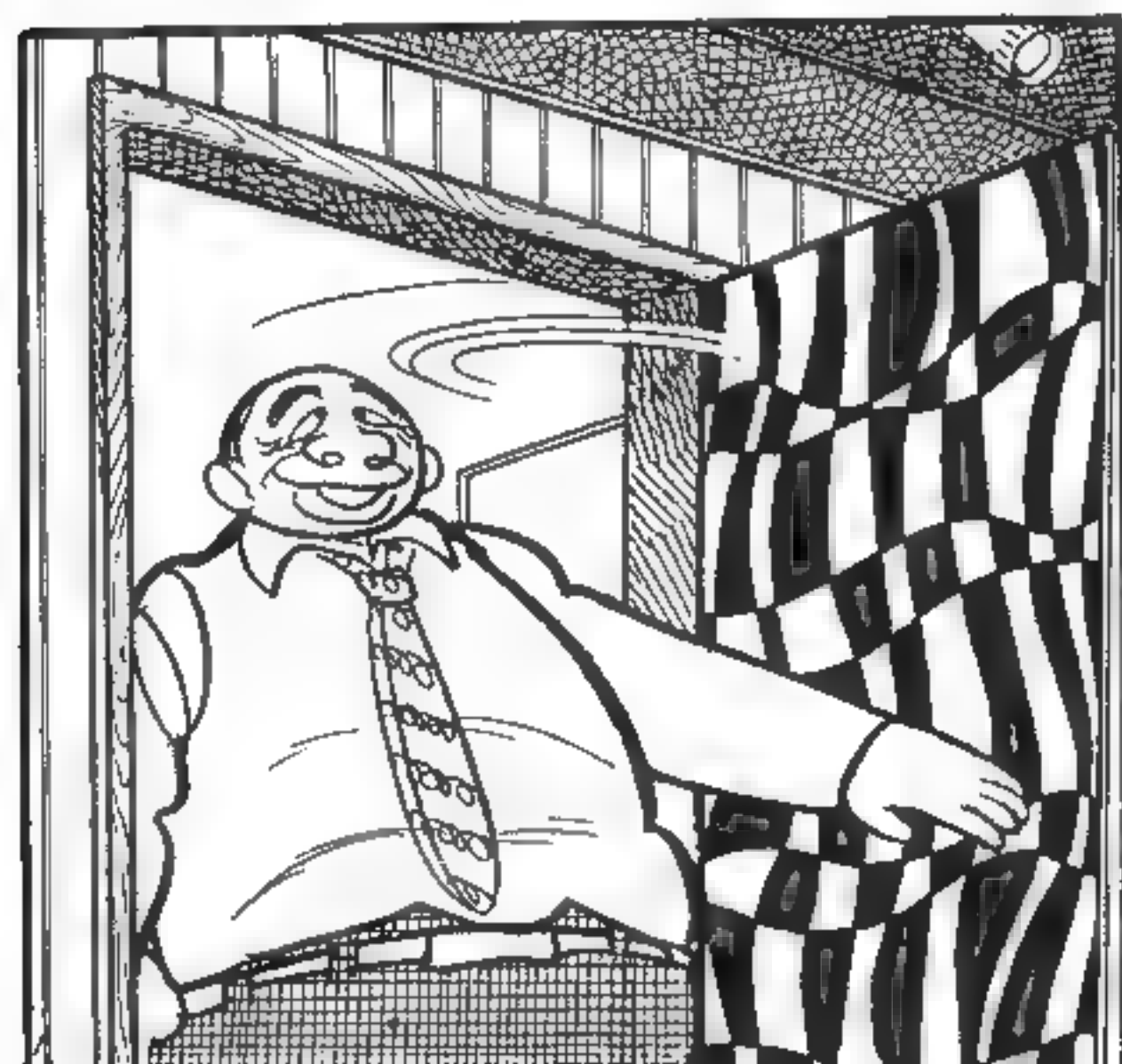
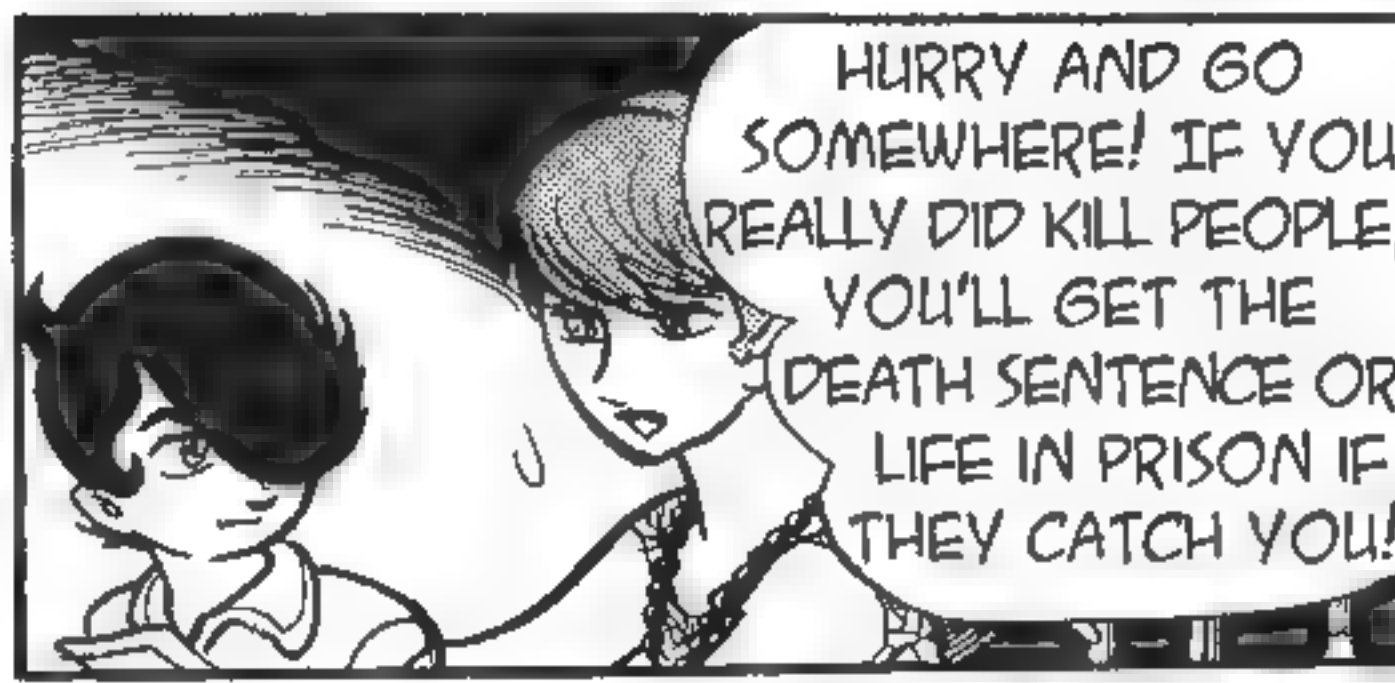




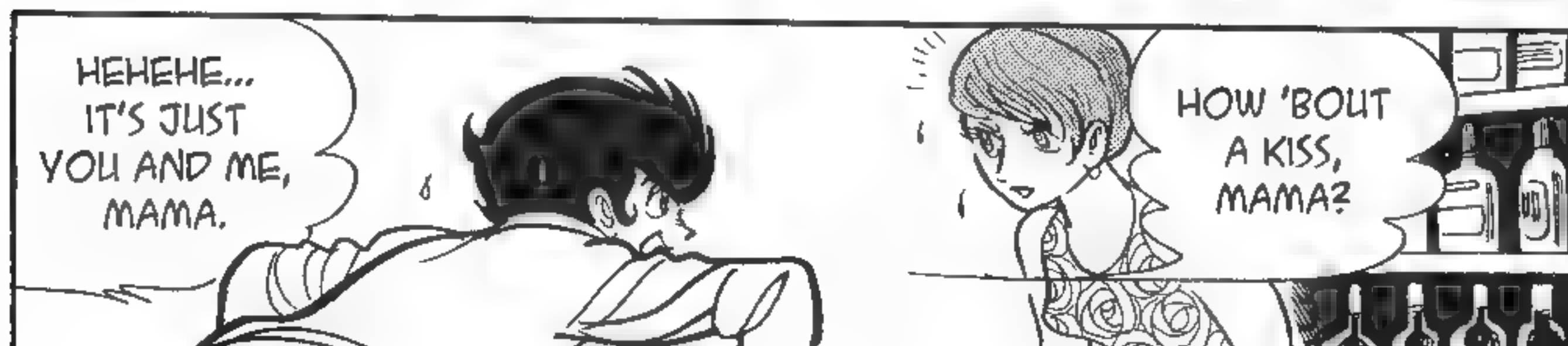
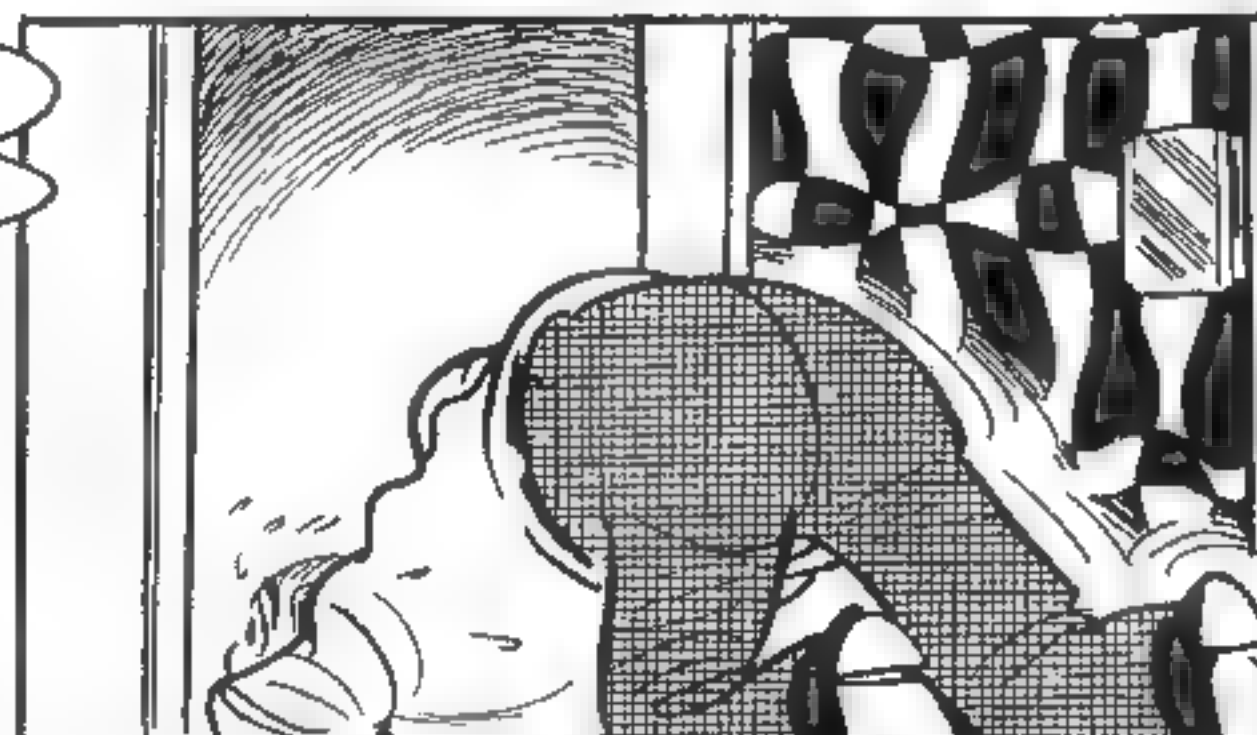
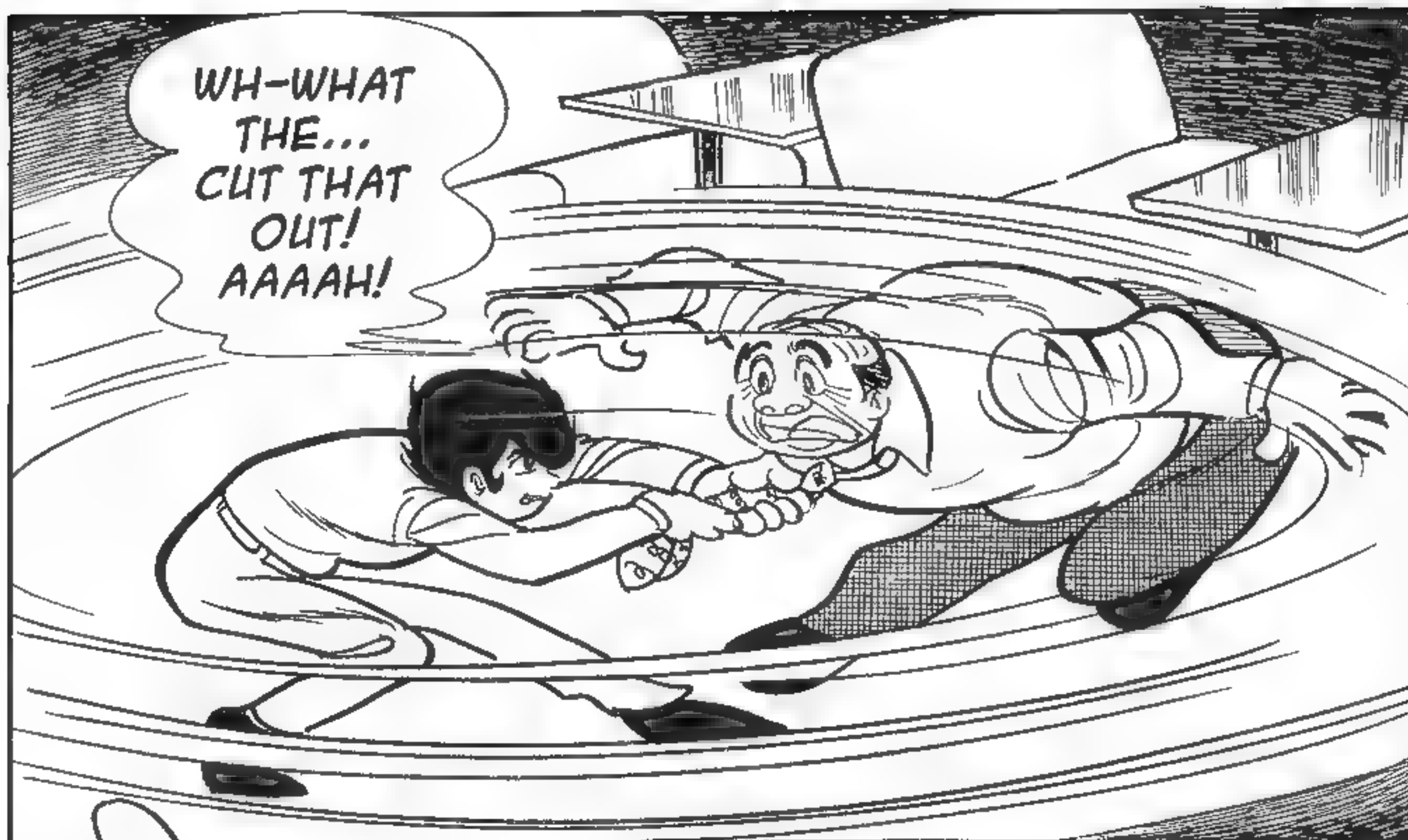


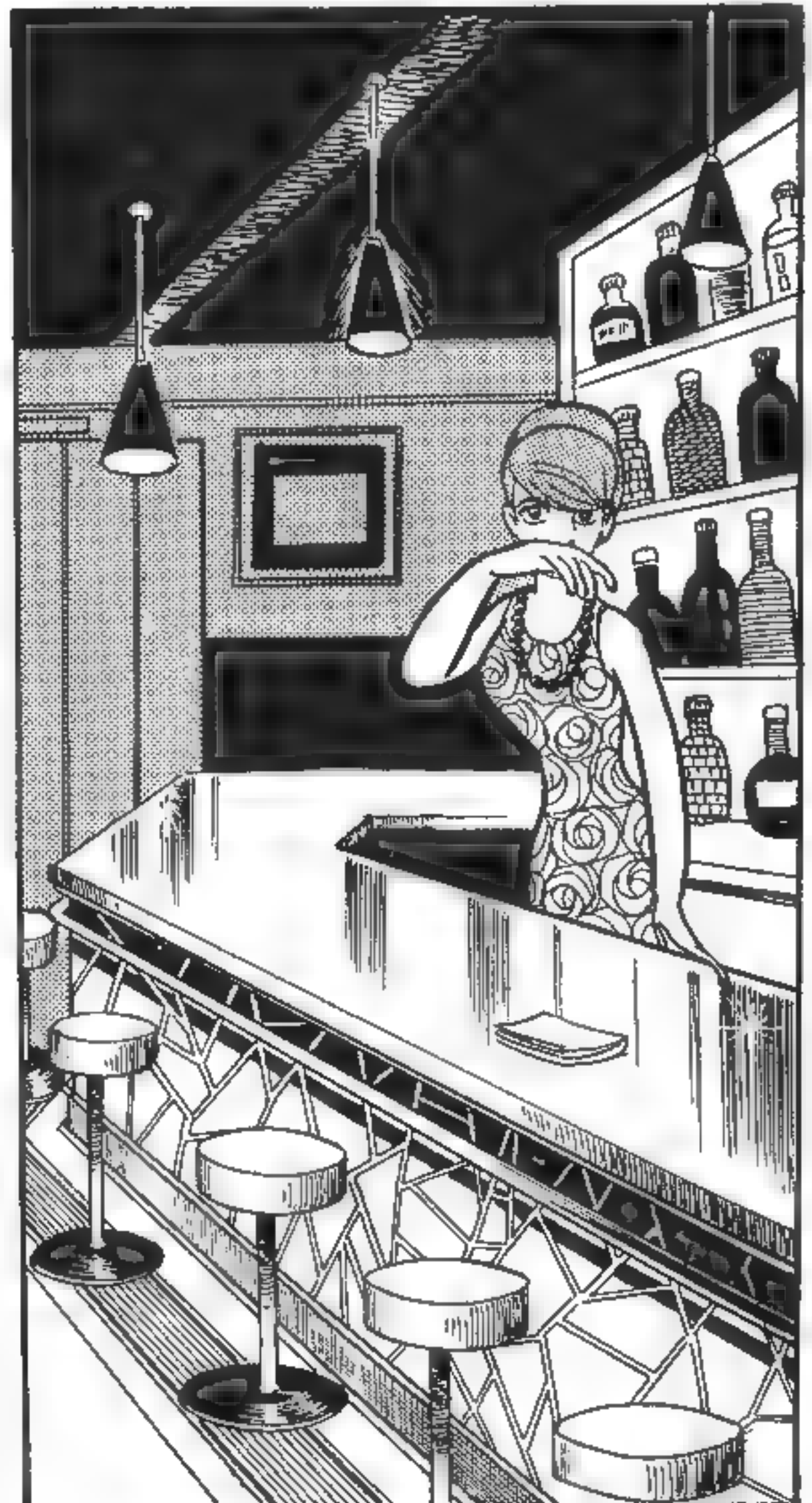
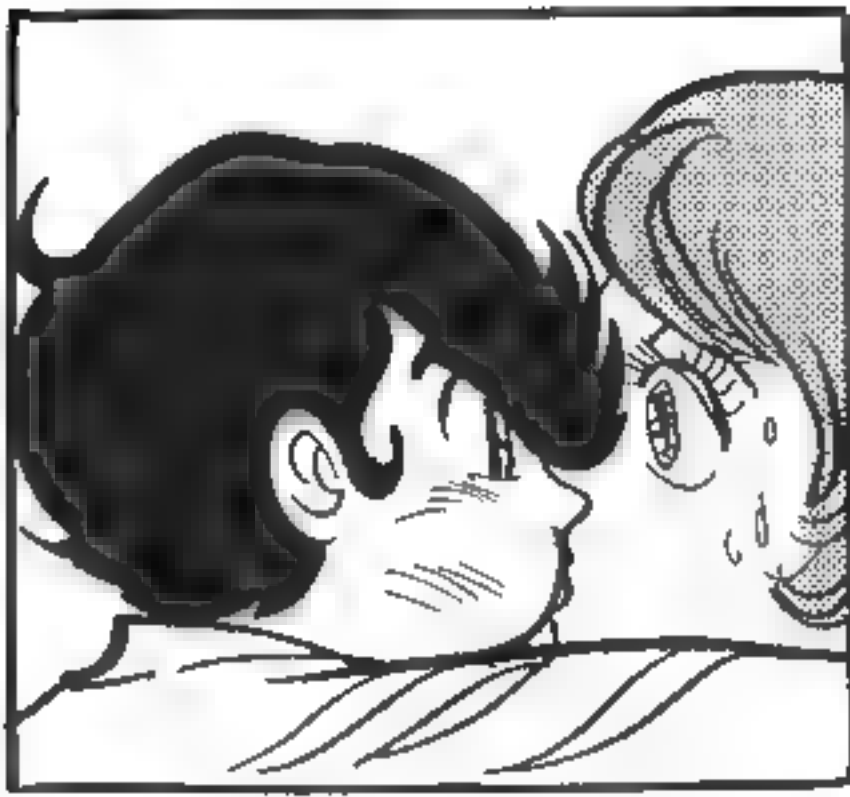


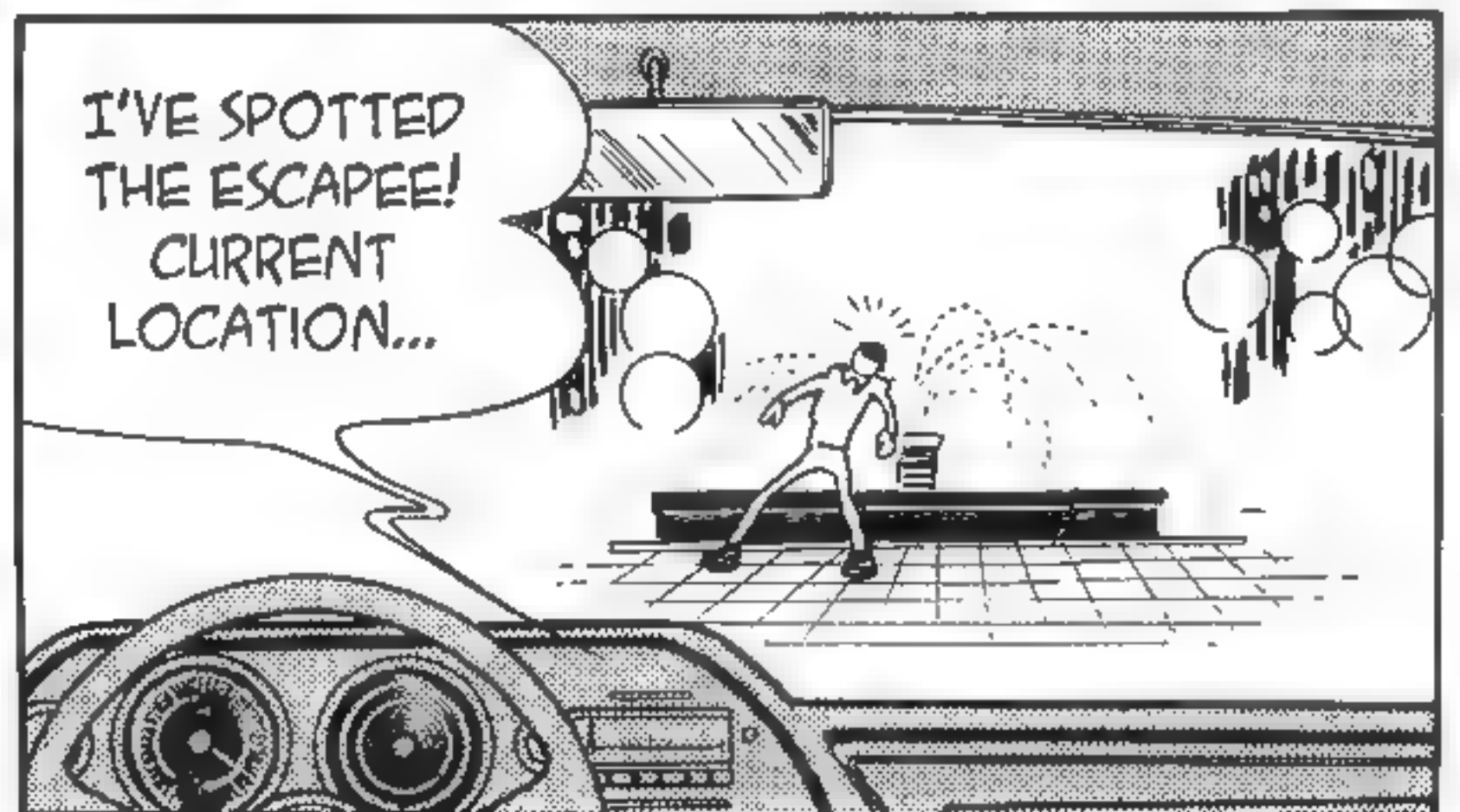
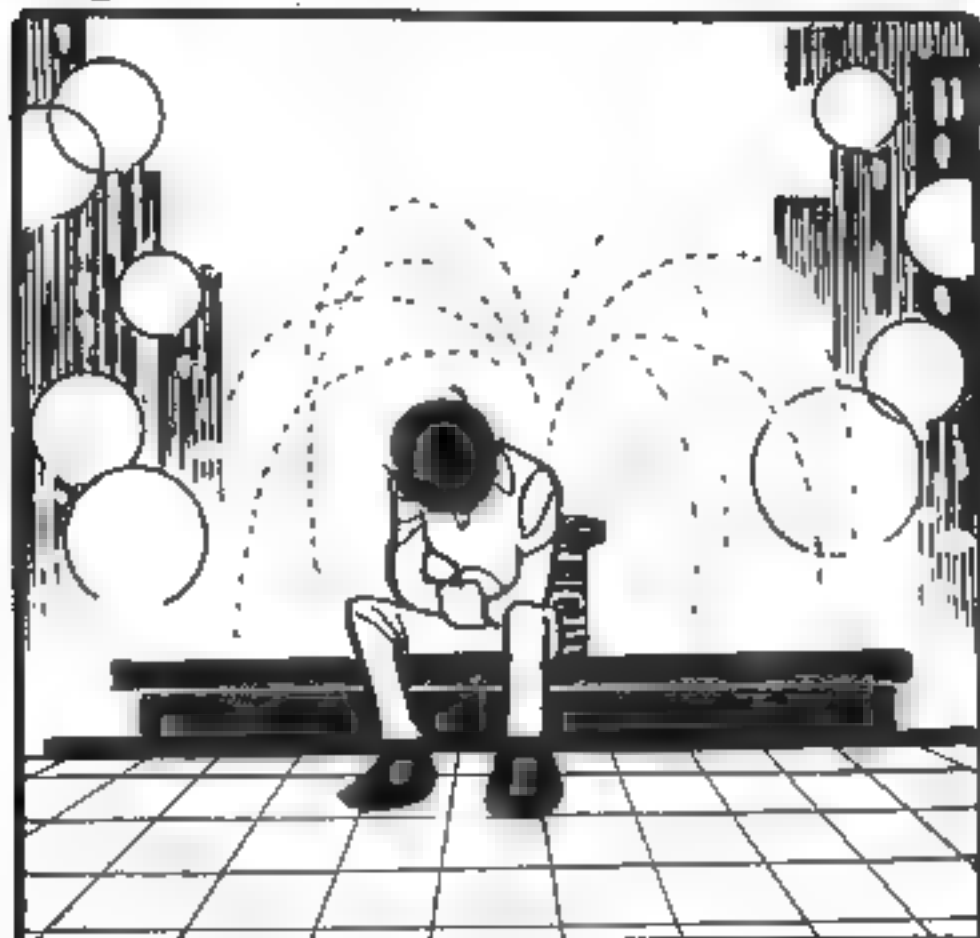
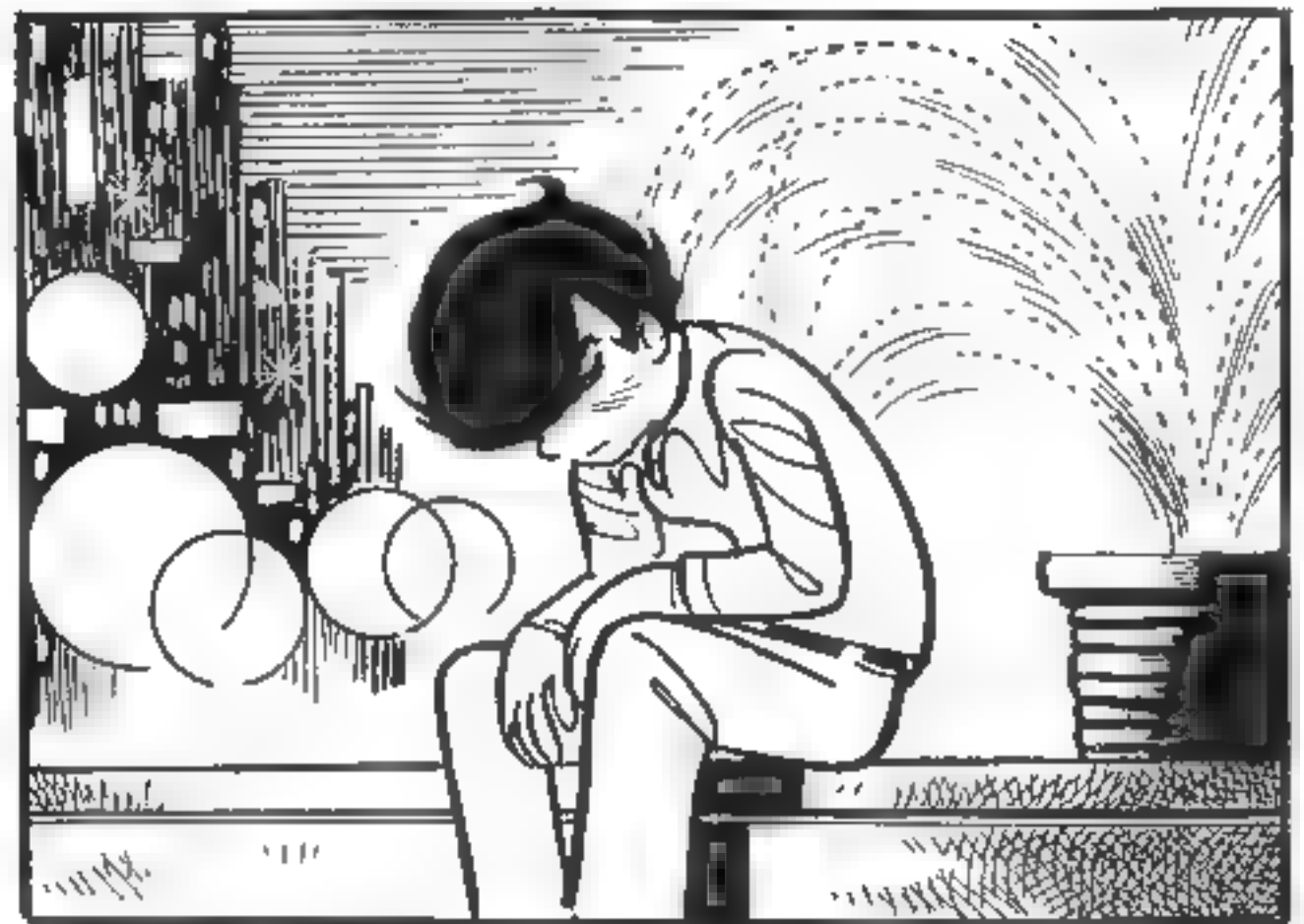
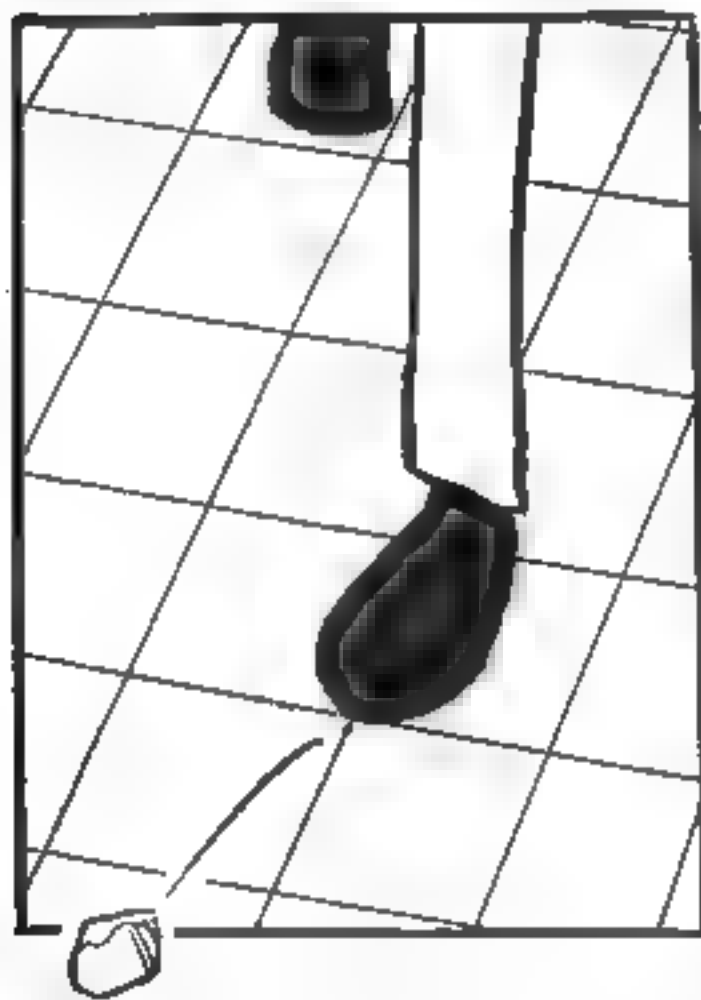
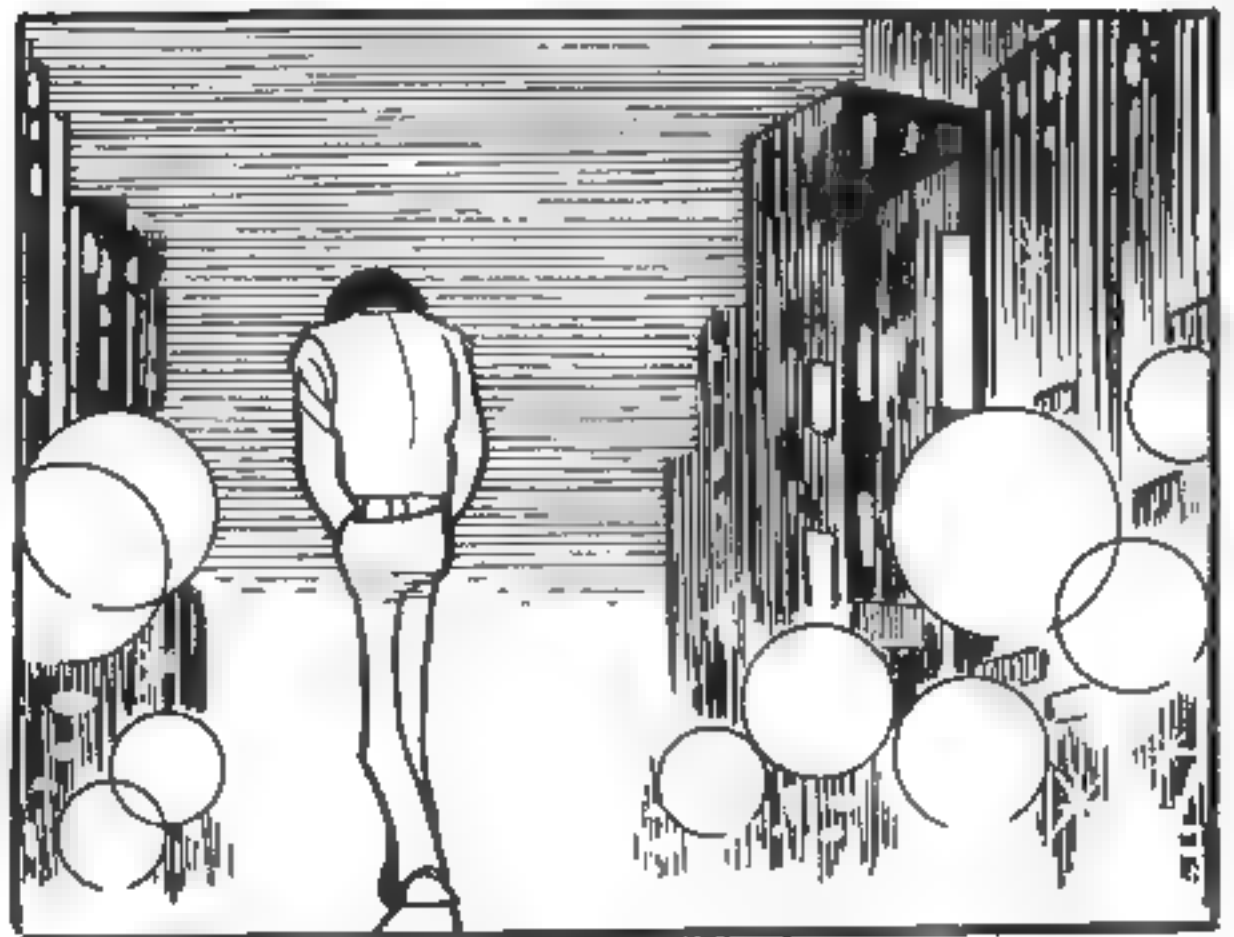
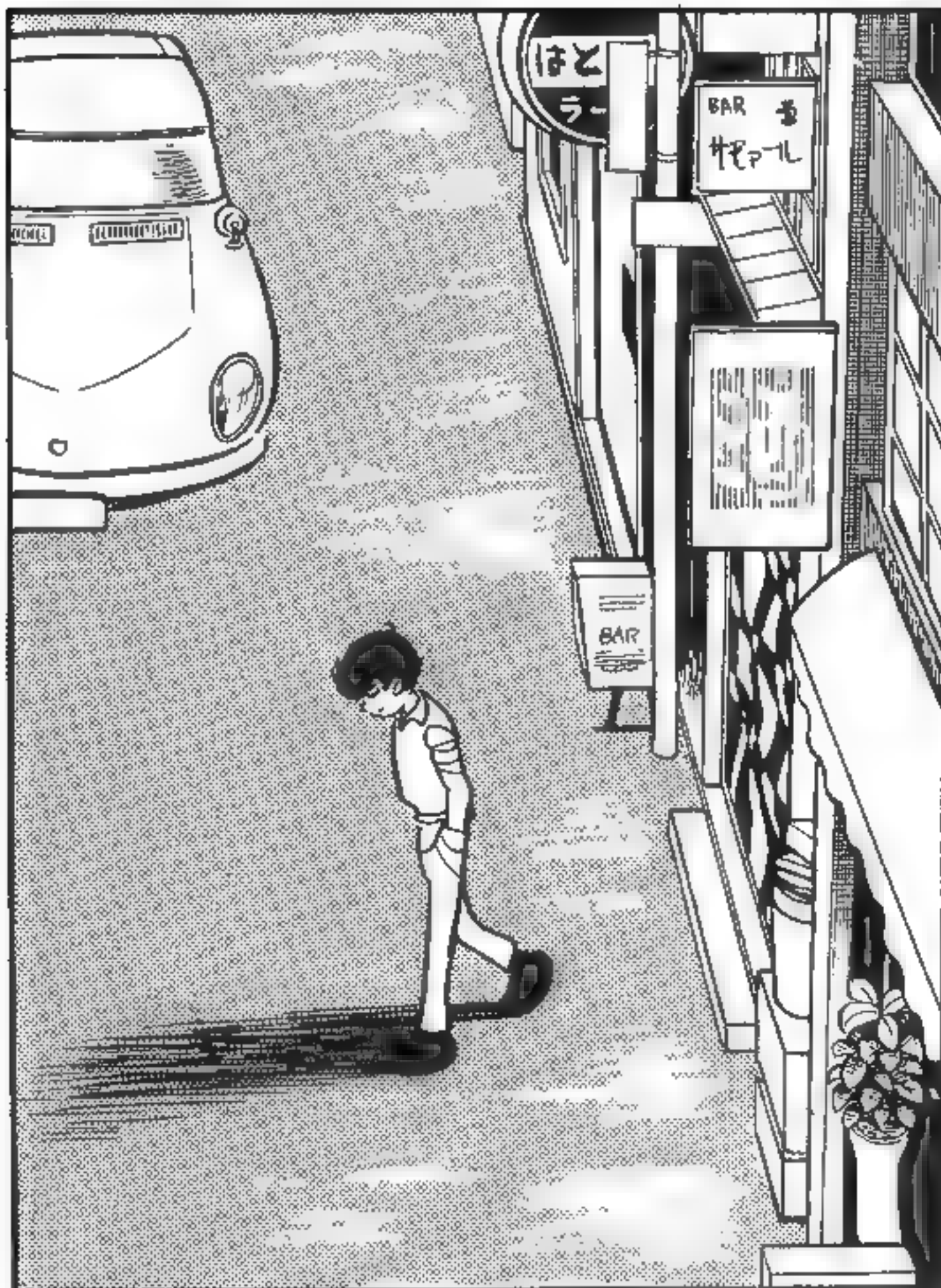


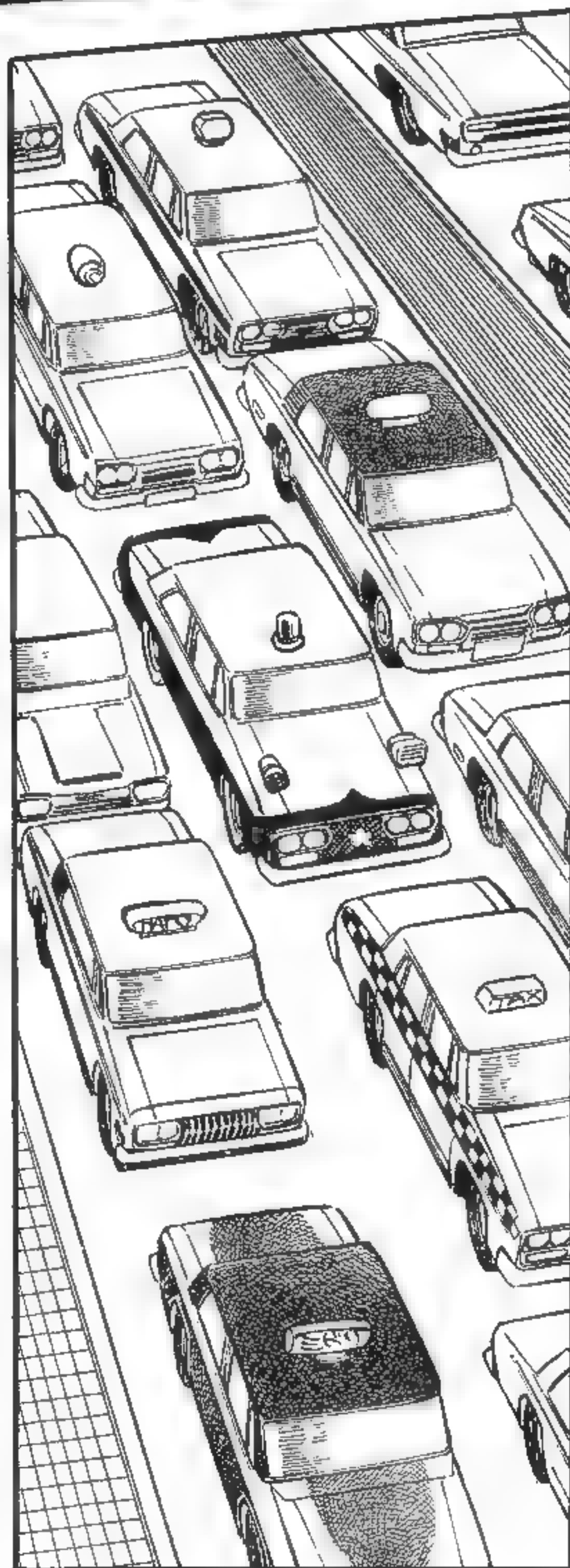
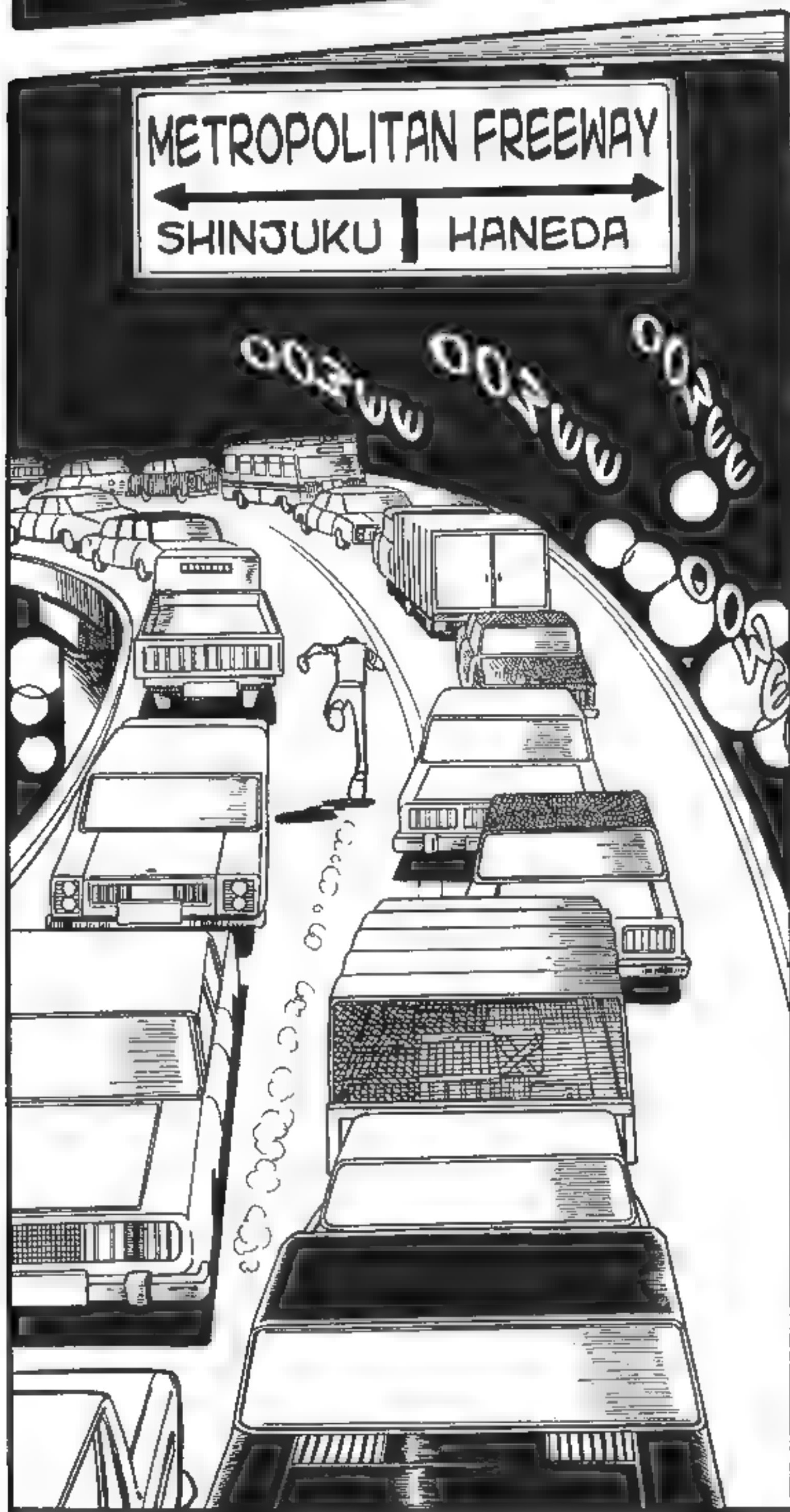


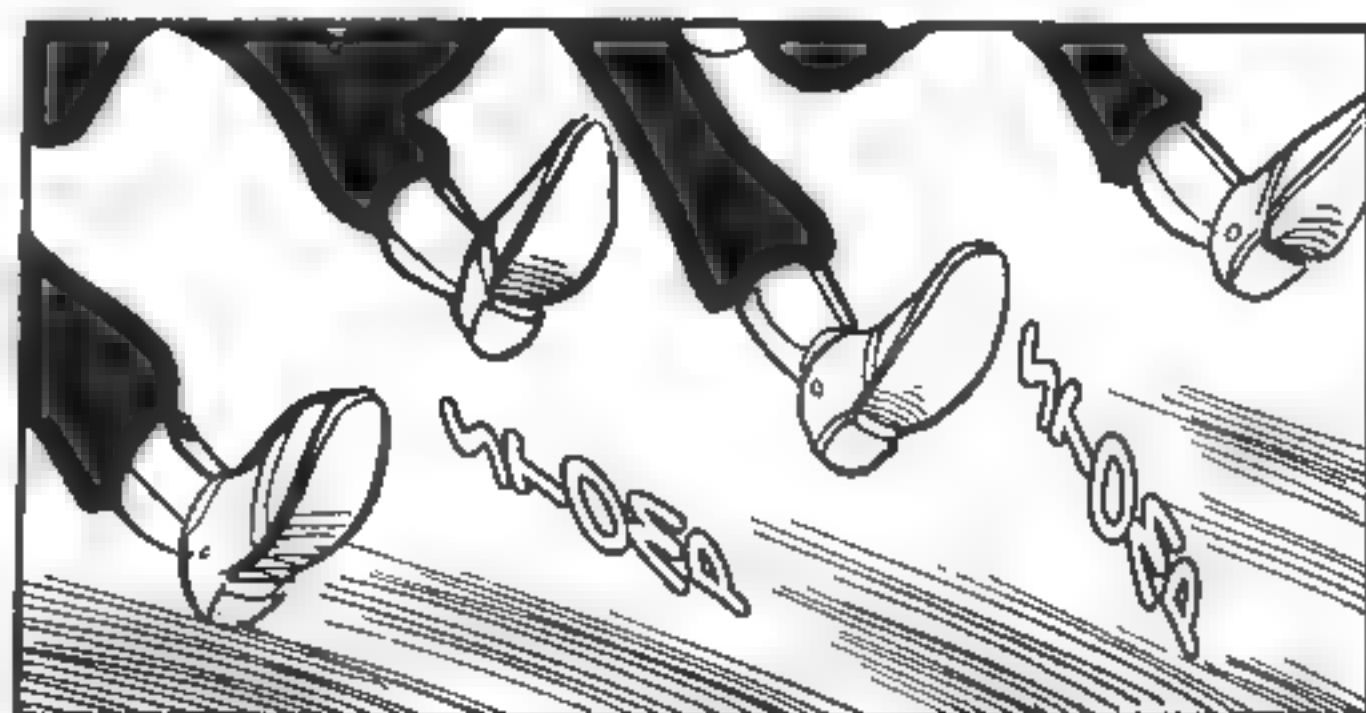
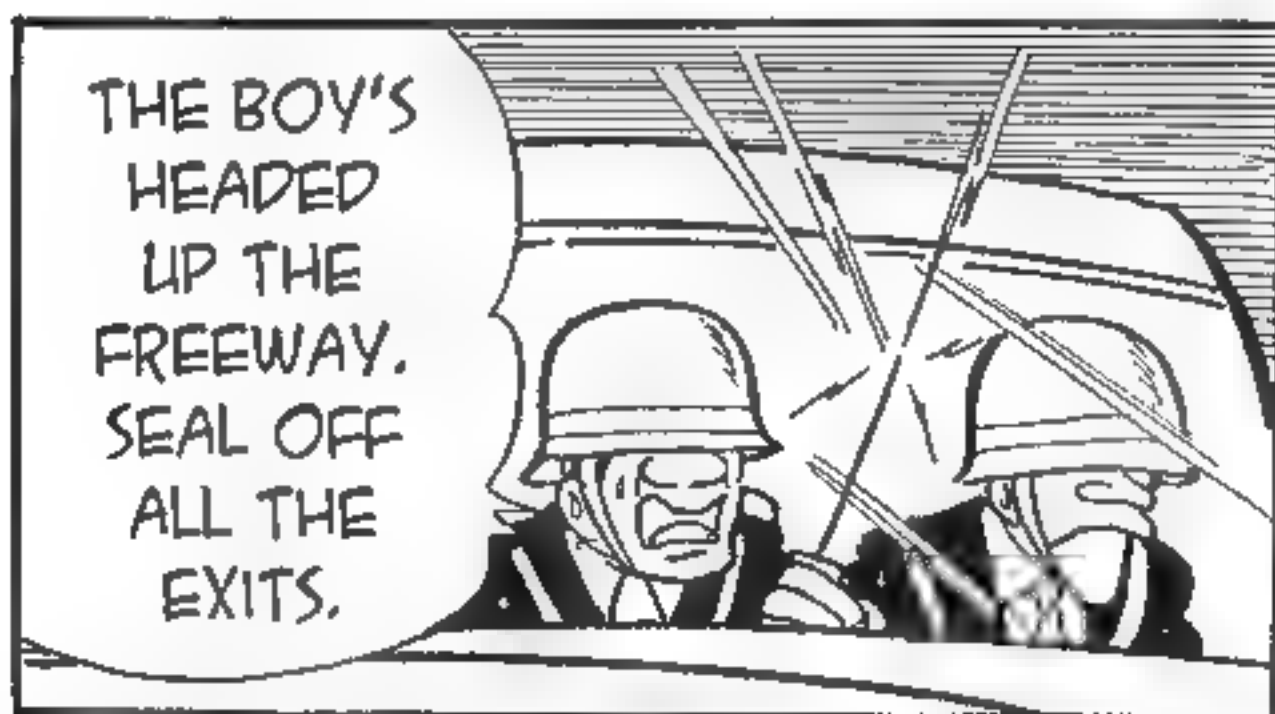


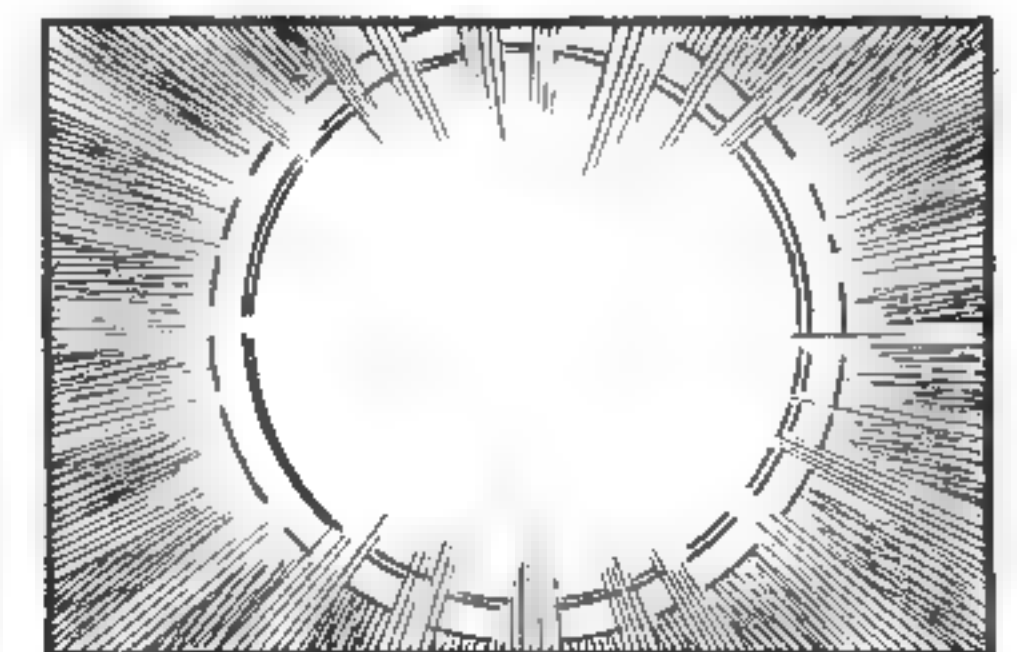
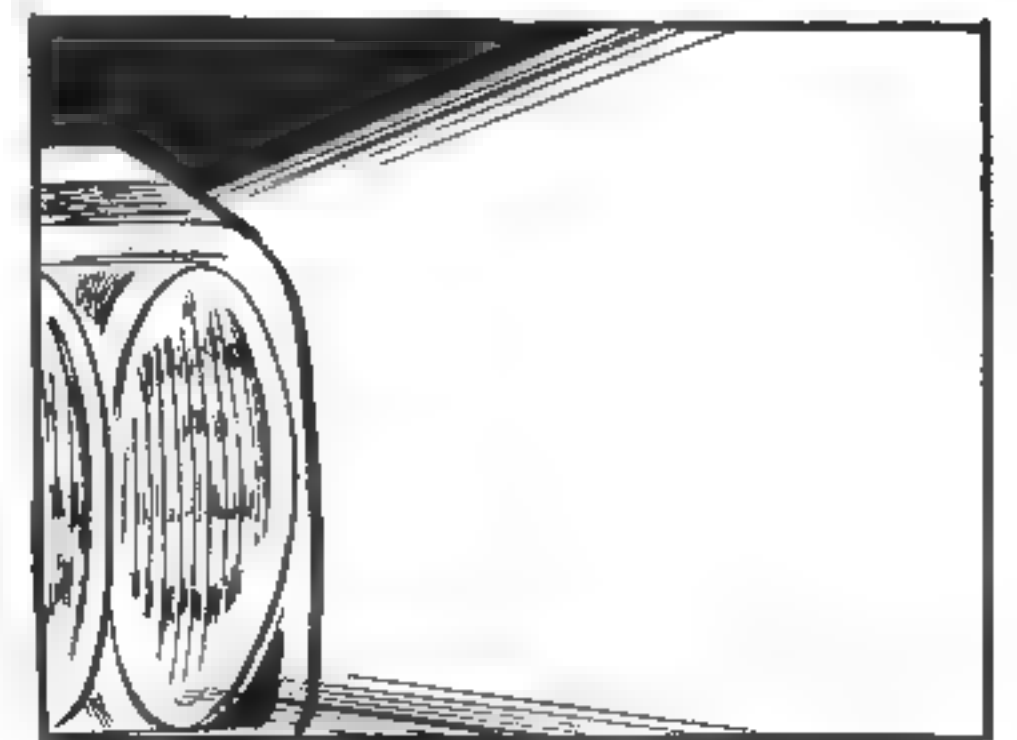
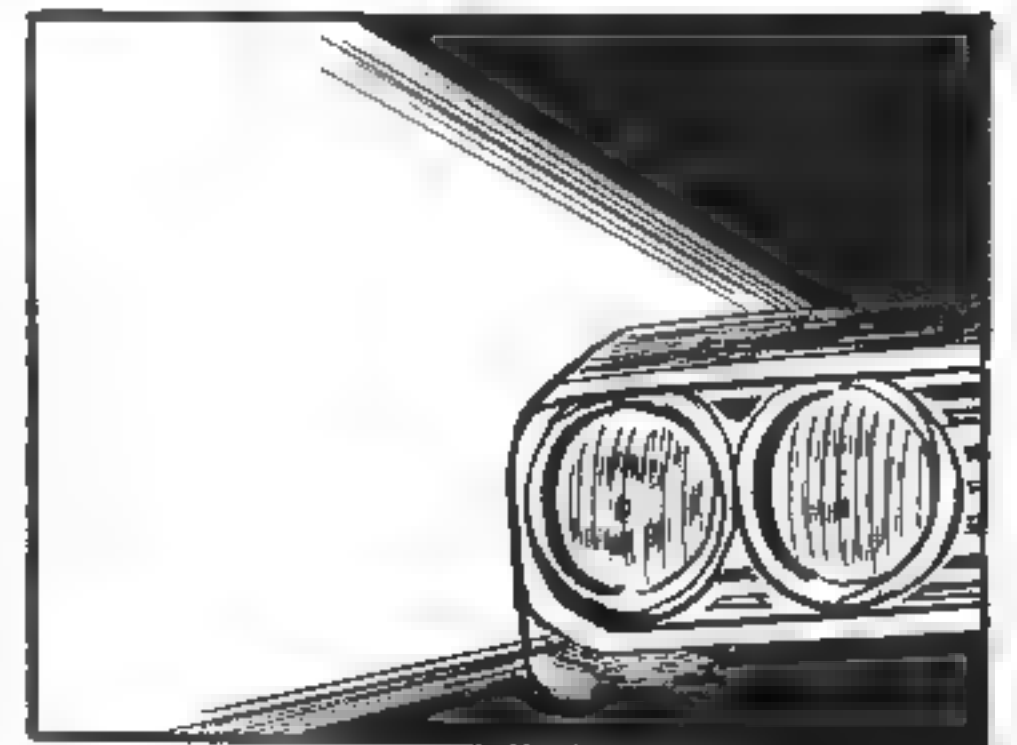
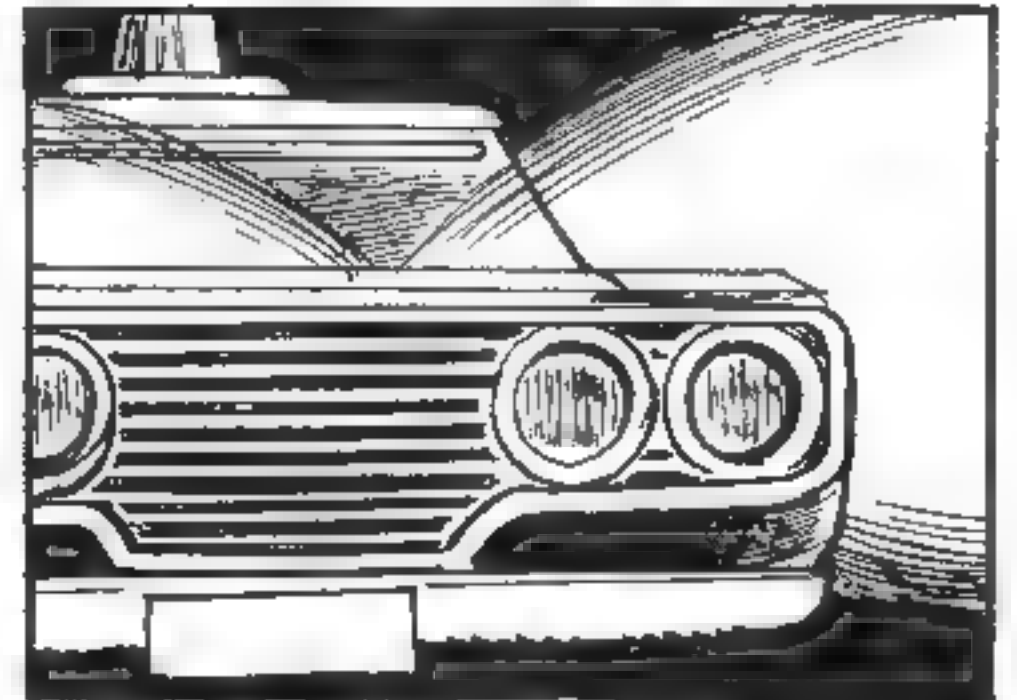
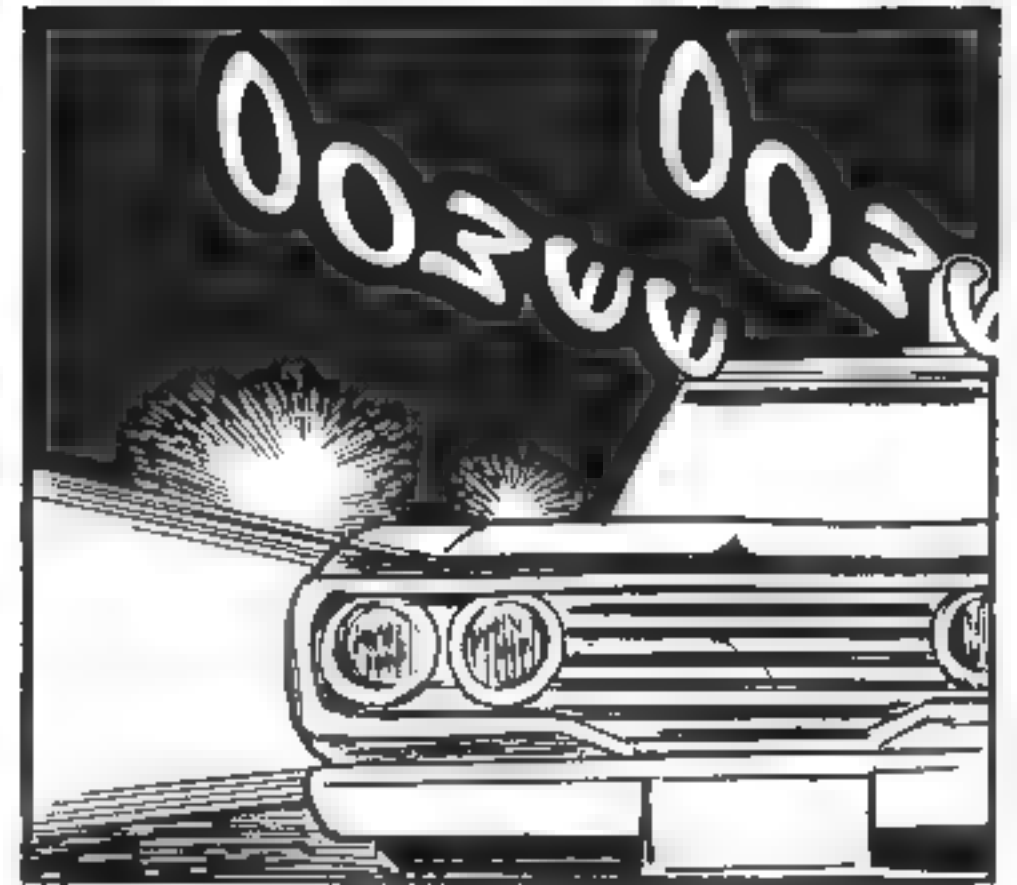
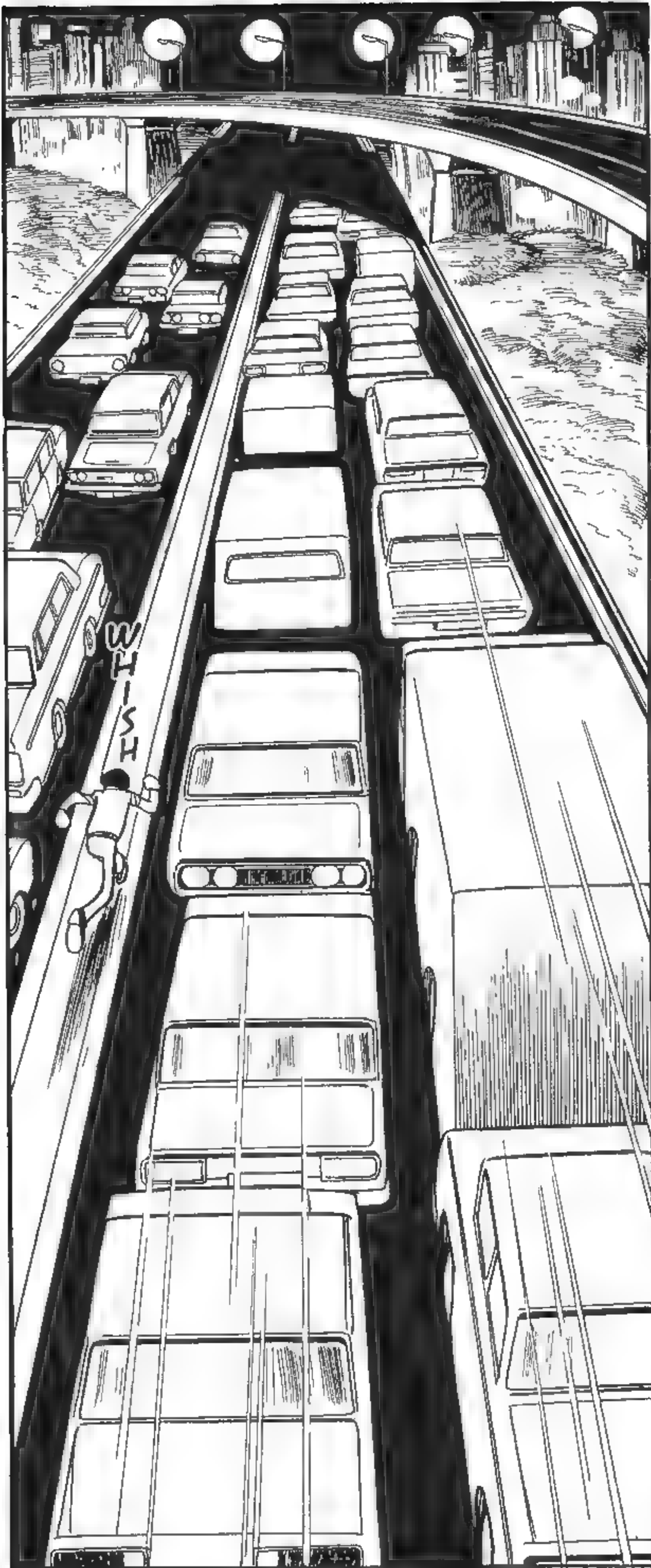


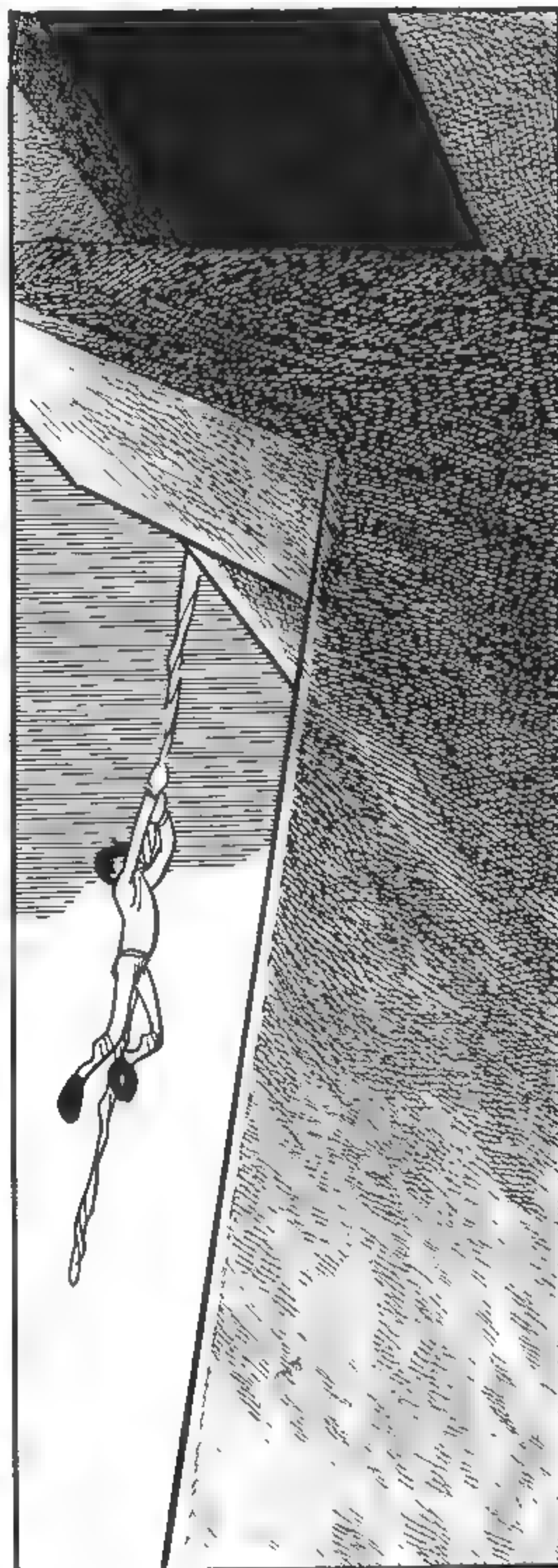
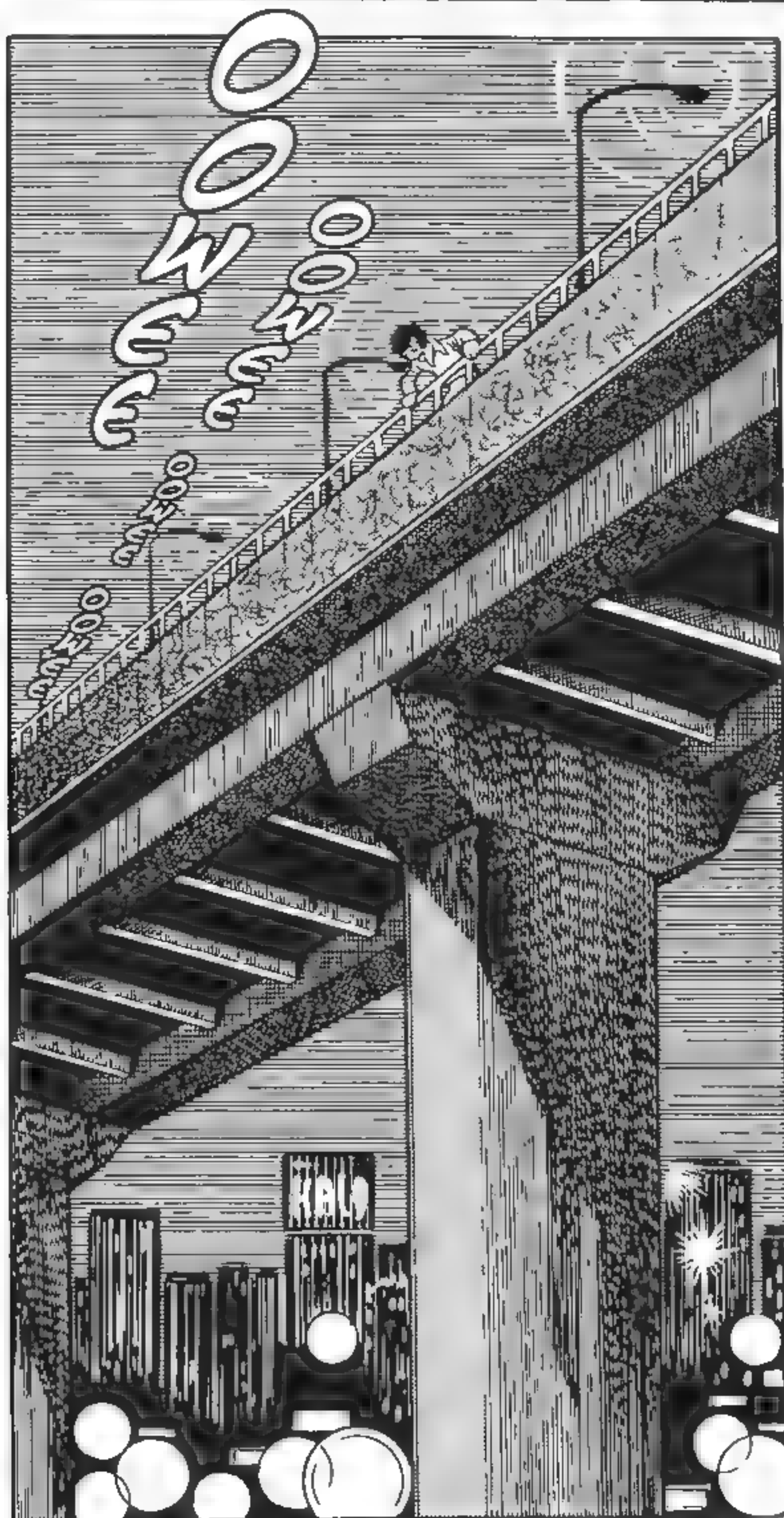


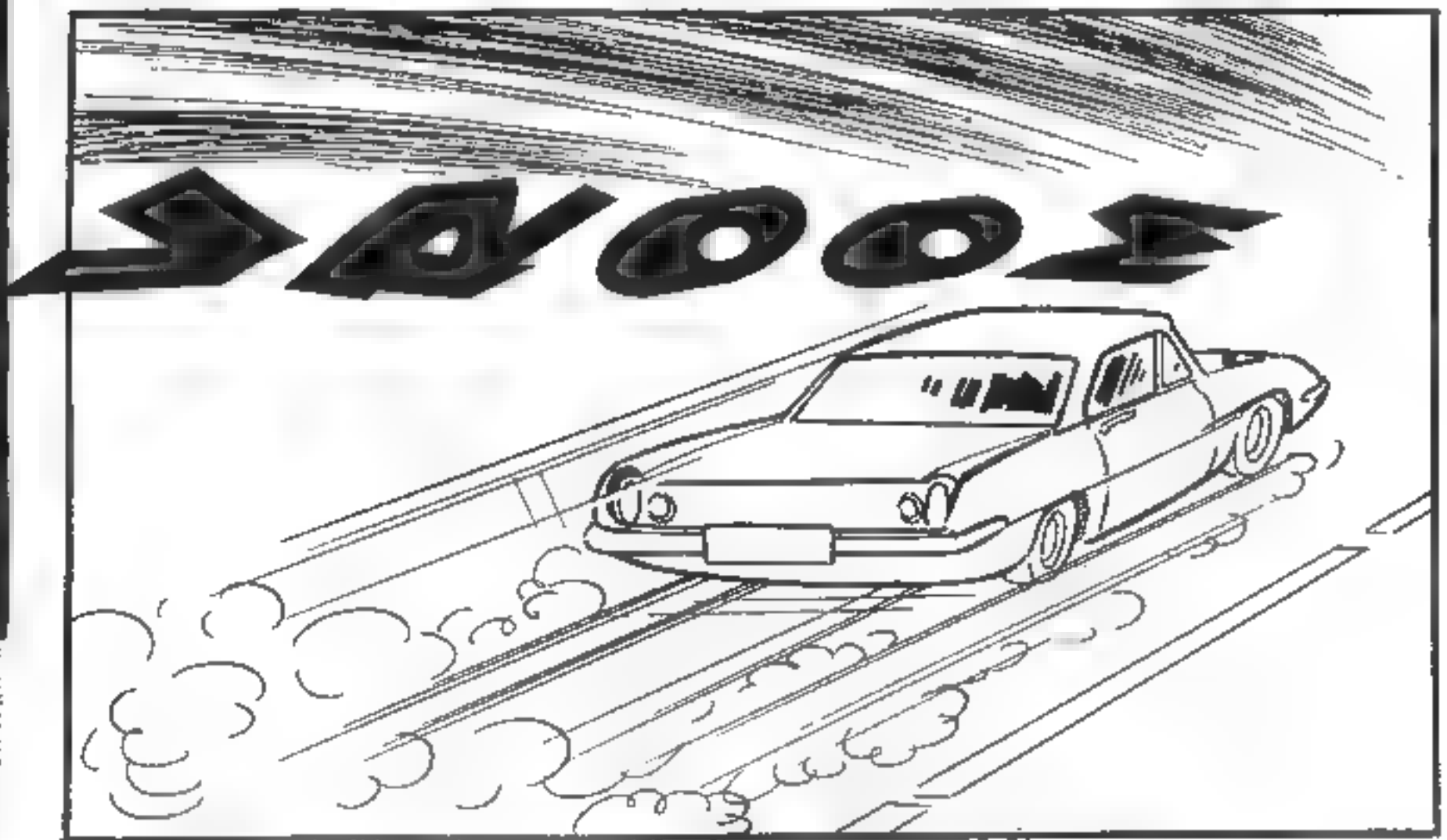
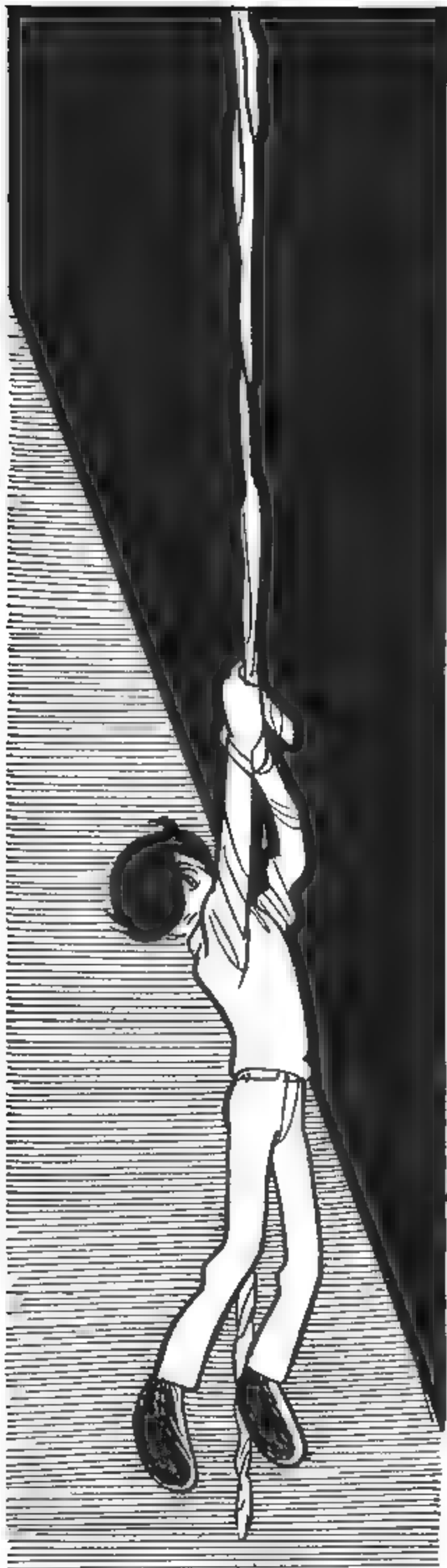


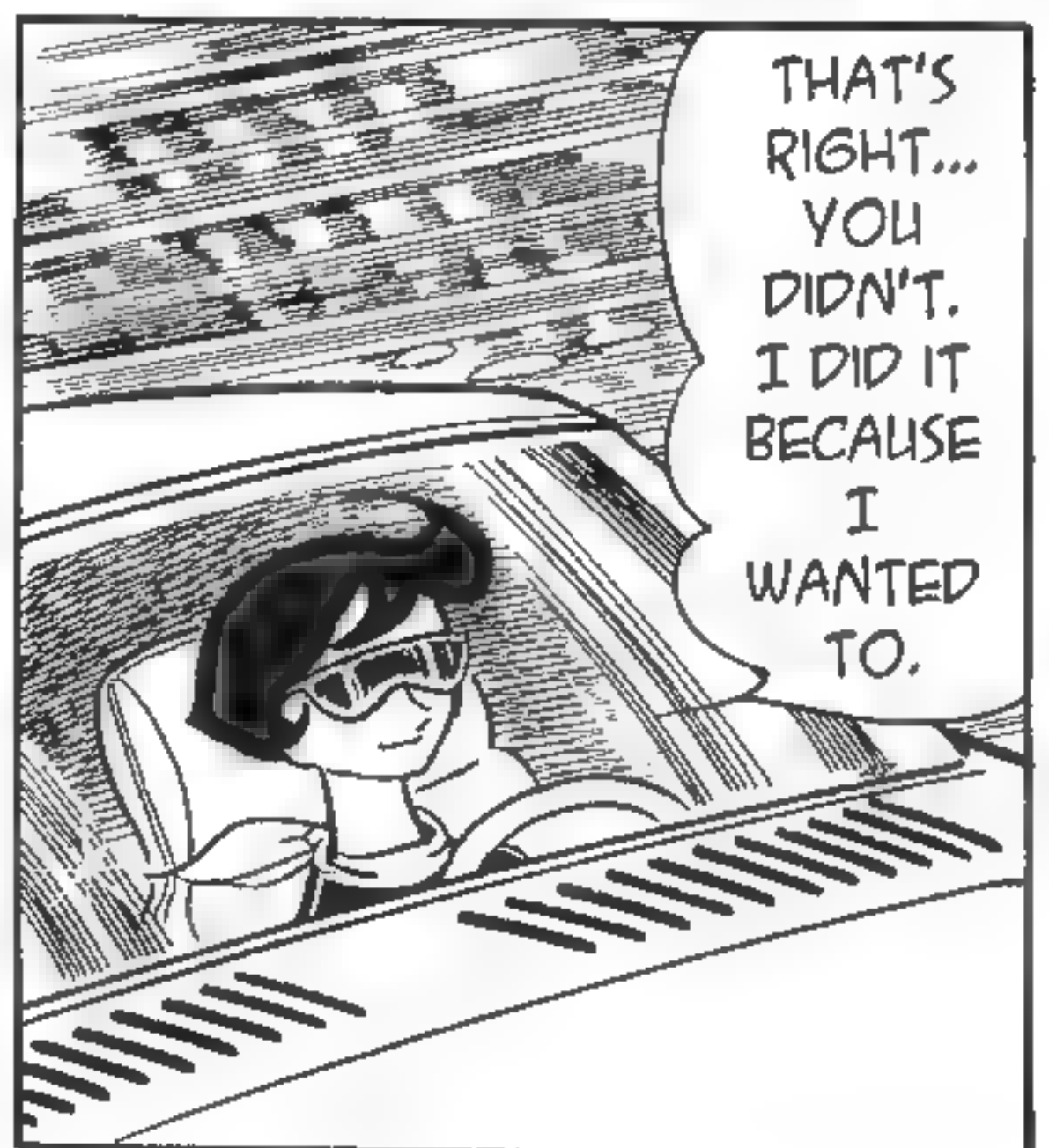
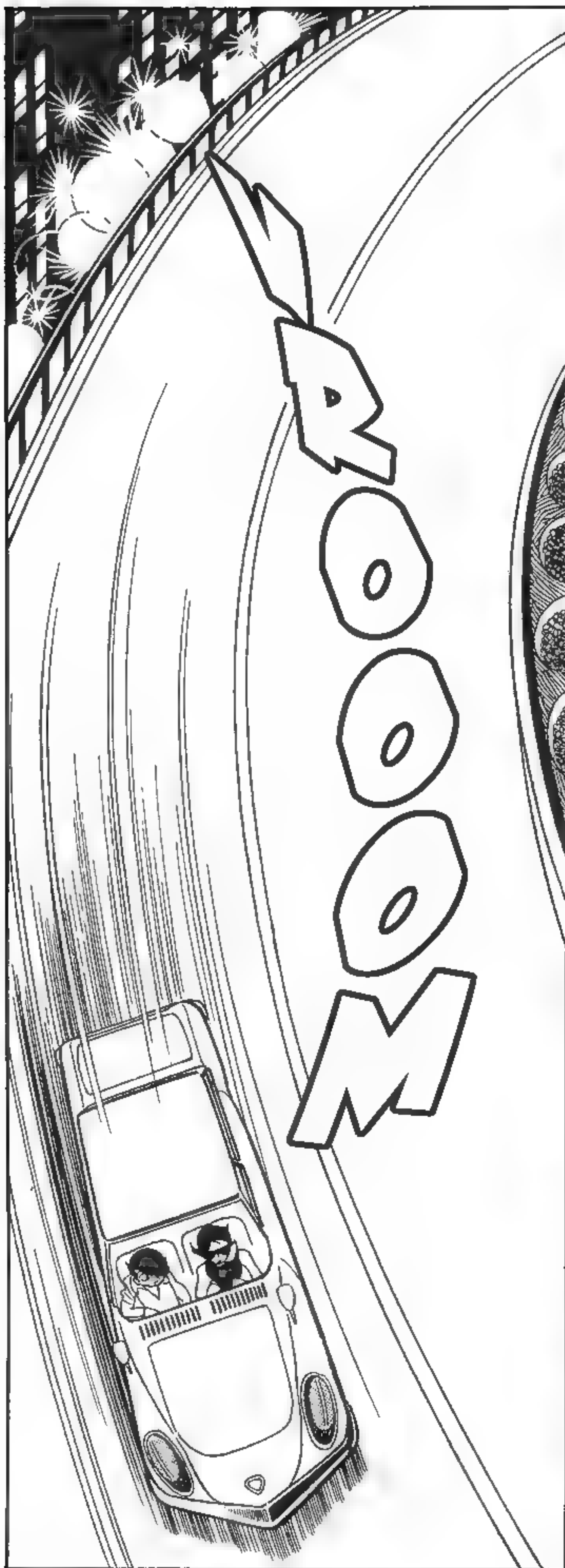


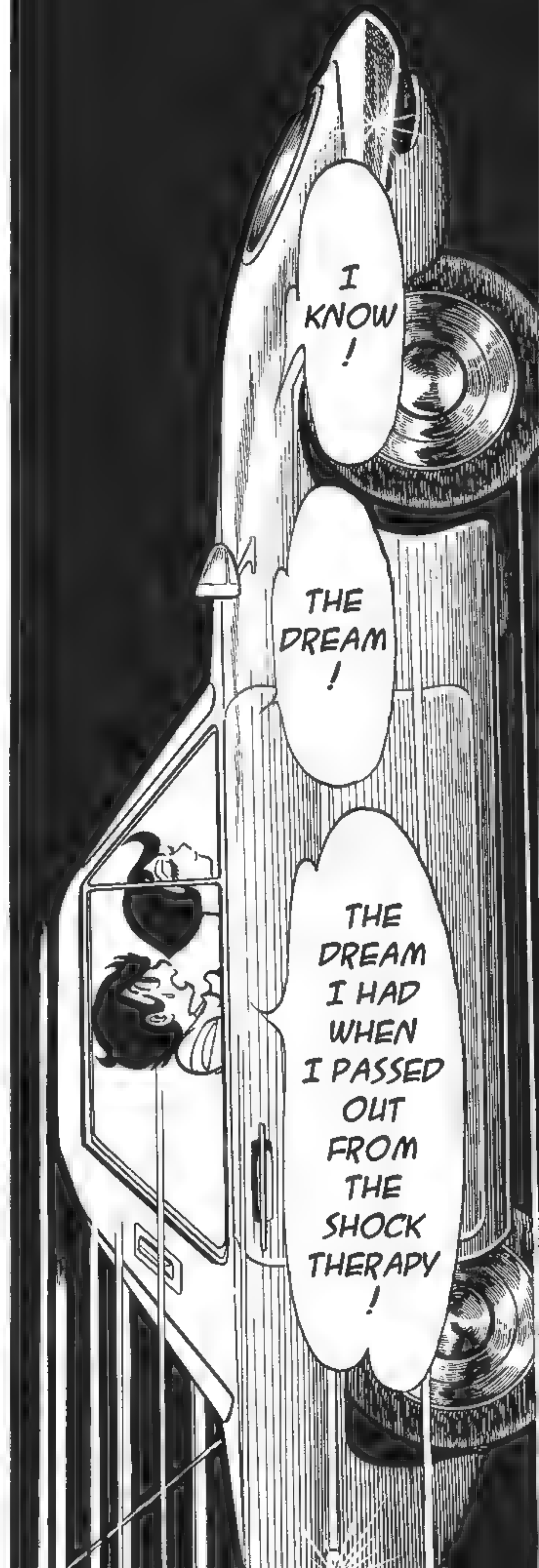














THOU SHALT
LOVE ONE WOMAN
AGAIN AND AGAIN.
BUT BEFORE
THE TWO ARE
UNITED IN LOVE,
ONE SHALL
PERISH.

EVEN IN DEATH,
THOU SHALT
BE REBORN,
TO UNDERGO
YET ANOTHER
TRIAL OF LOVE!
THOU SHALT
SUFFER,

FOR
ETERNITY
!

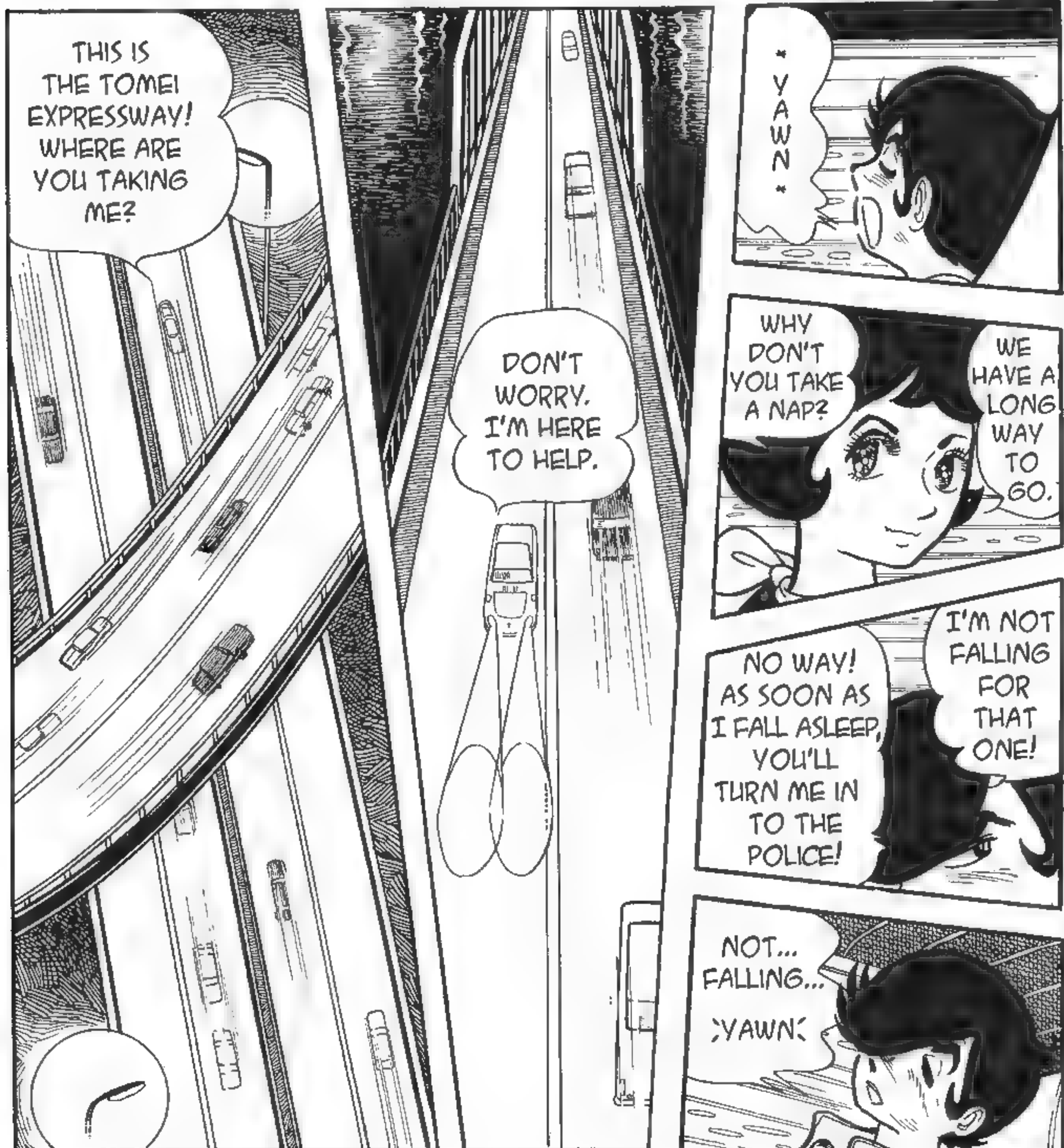


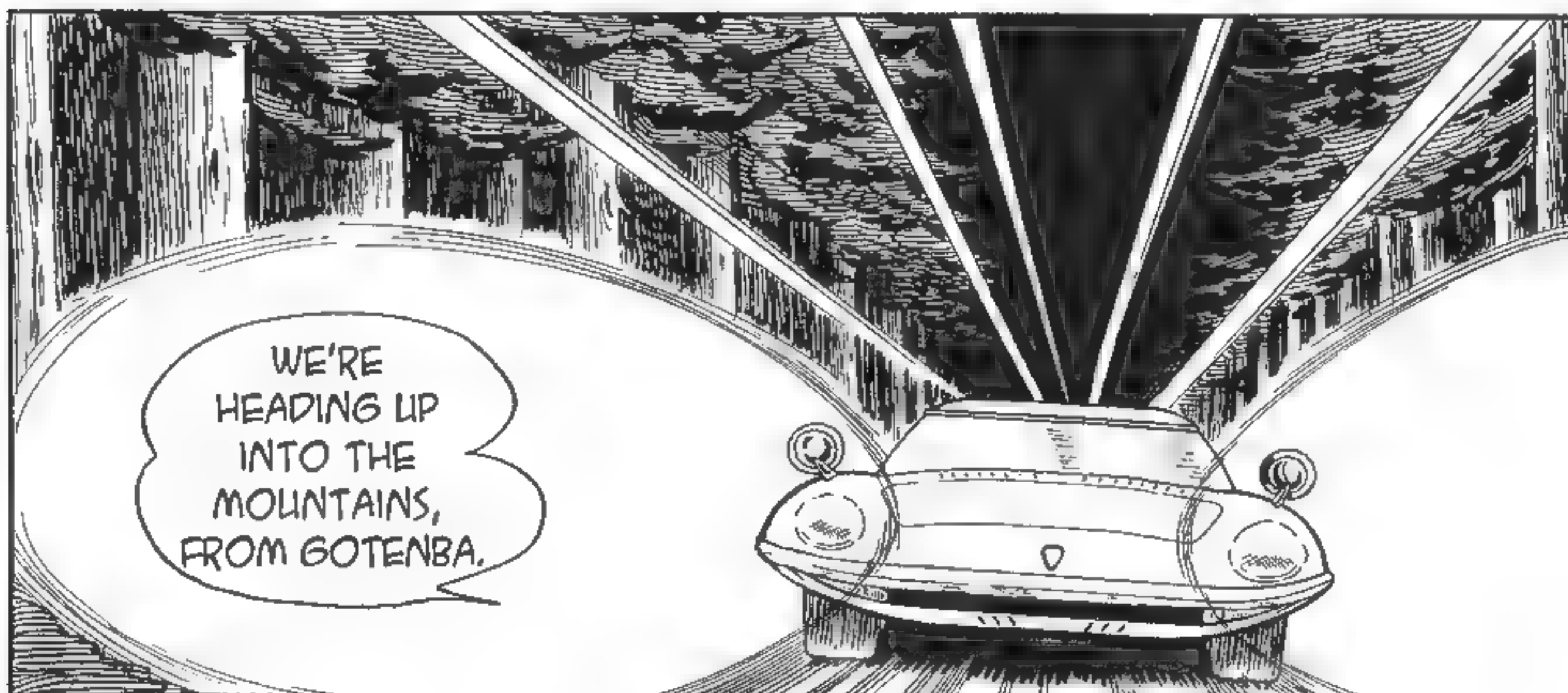
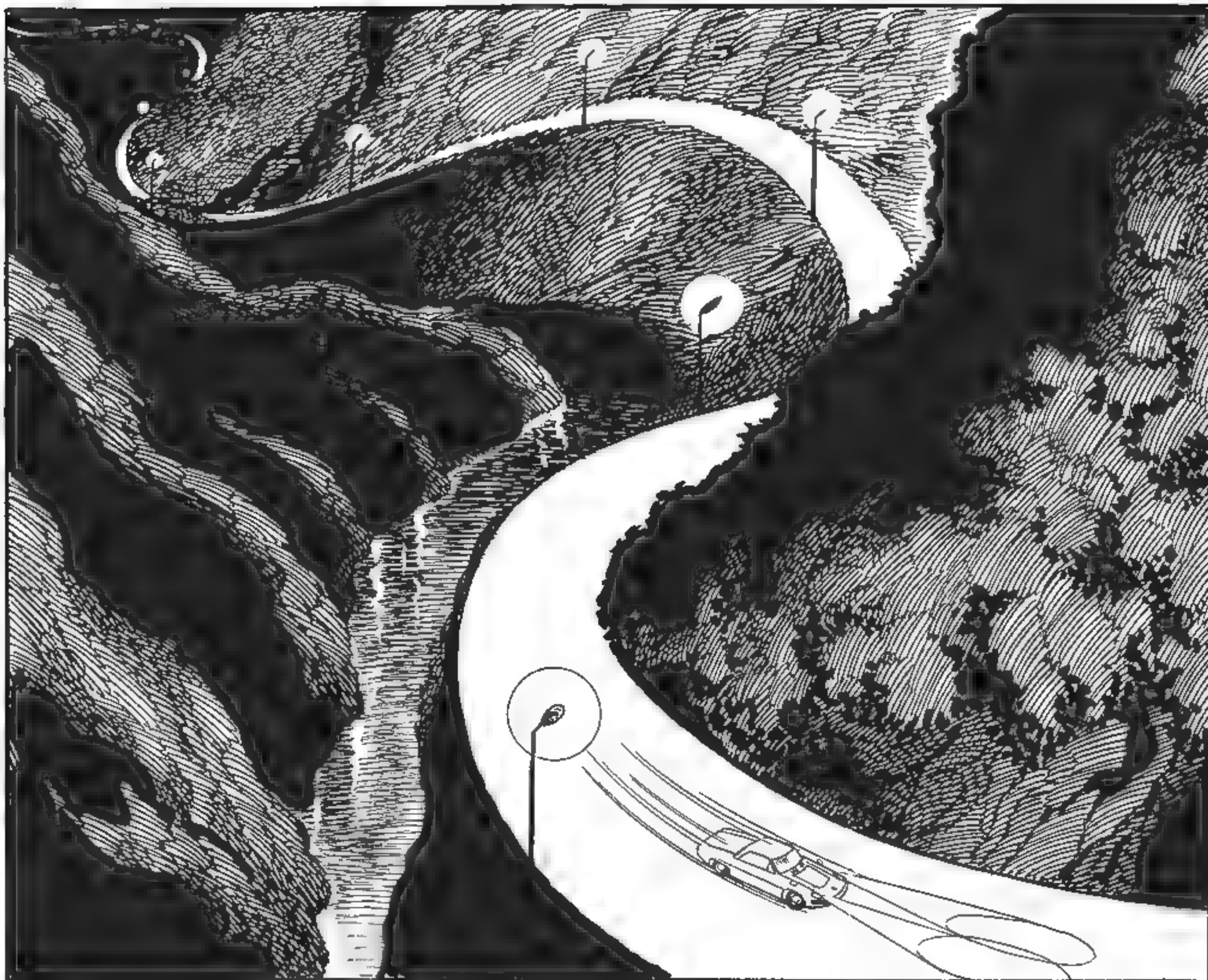
THAT'S
IT
!

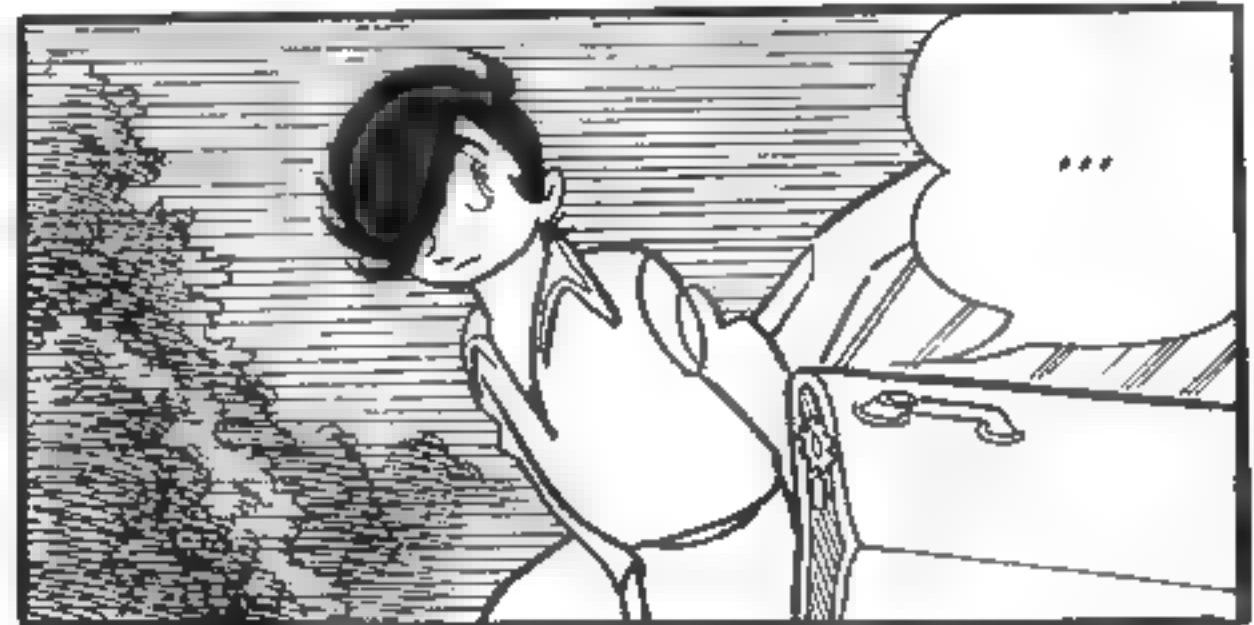
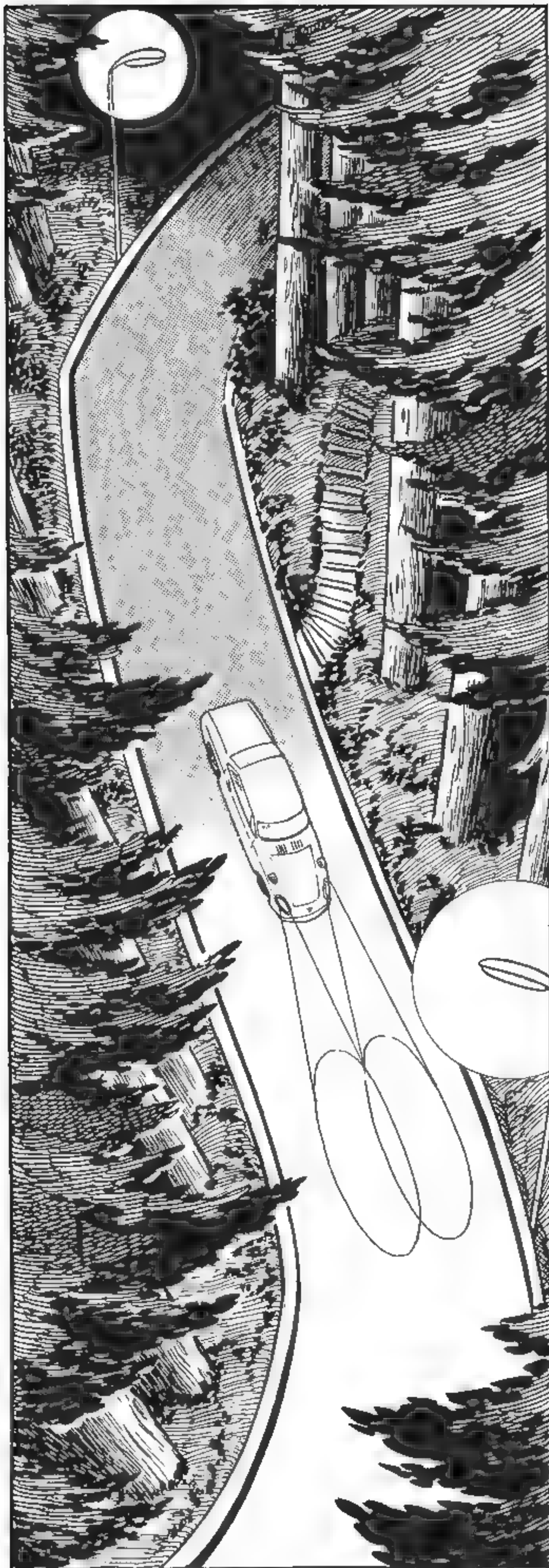


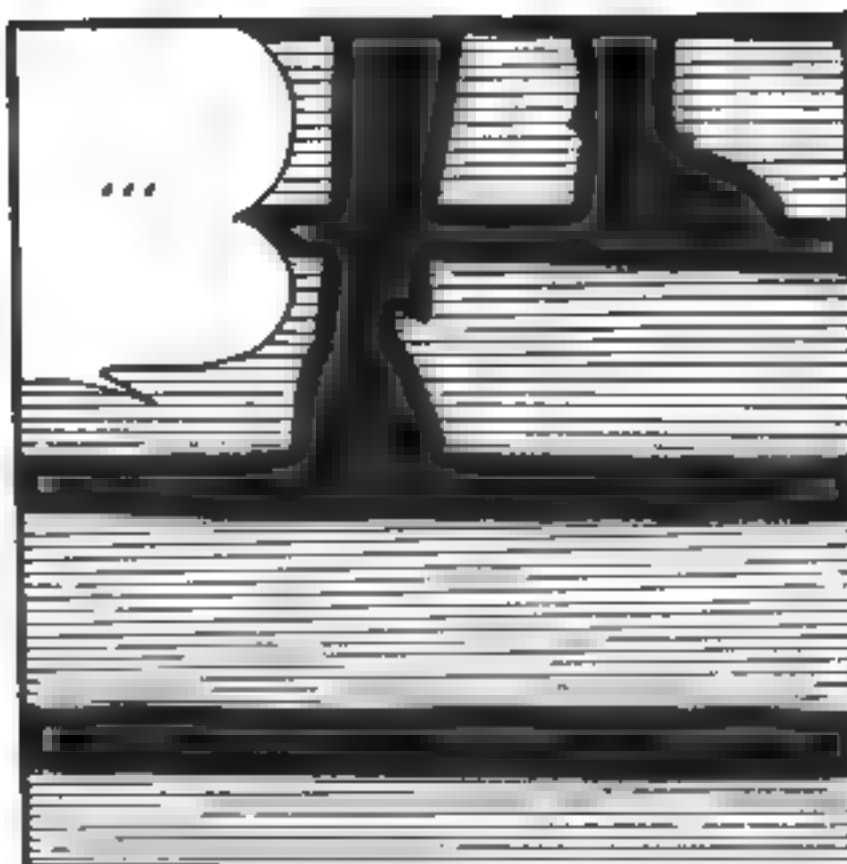
THAT
PREACHY
GODDESS
WHO
NEARLY
LECTURED
ME TO
DEATH!

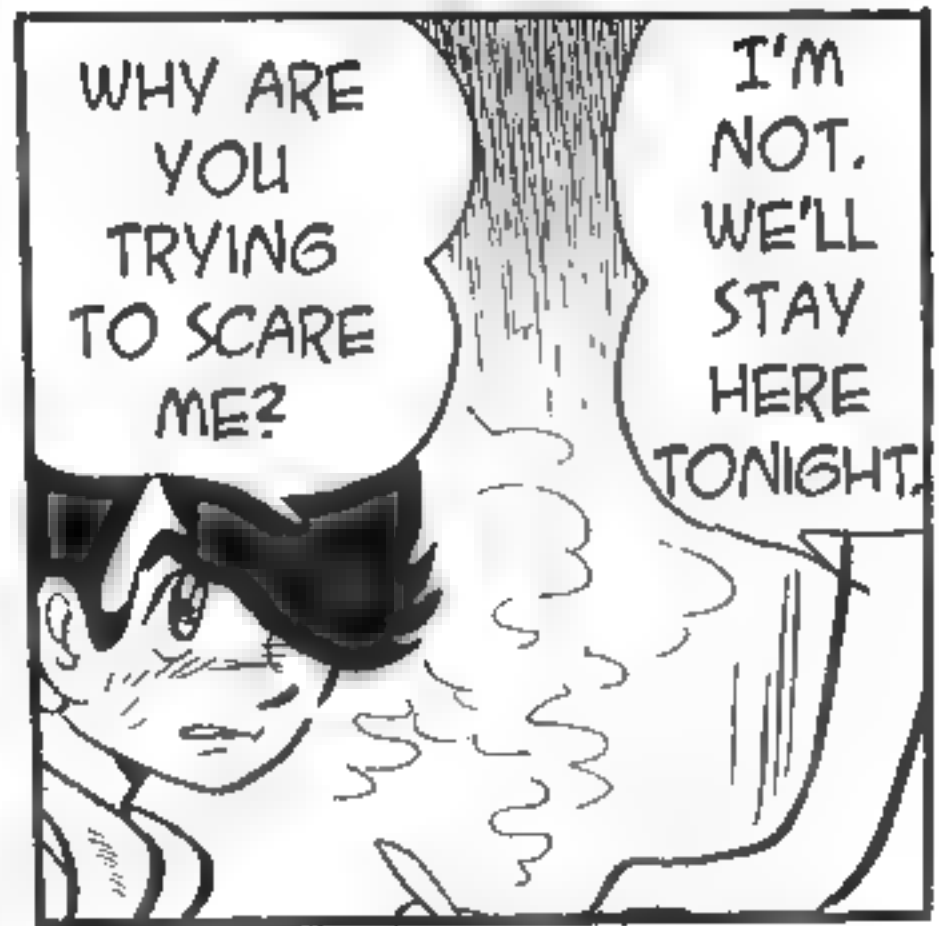
YOU
LOOK
JUST
LIKE HER!













CALM
DOWN!

THE
CAGE IS
FOR ME!



YOU ESCAPED
FROM THE
HOSPITAL,
RIGHT? SO I'LL
BE SLEEPING IN
HERE, JUST
TO BE SAFE.



A WORD OF
WARNING:
IF YOU
GO OUT,
YOU'LL GET
ARRESTED!



GOOD
NIGHT.



CHIRP-
CHIRP-
CHIRP

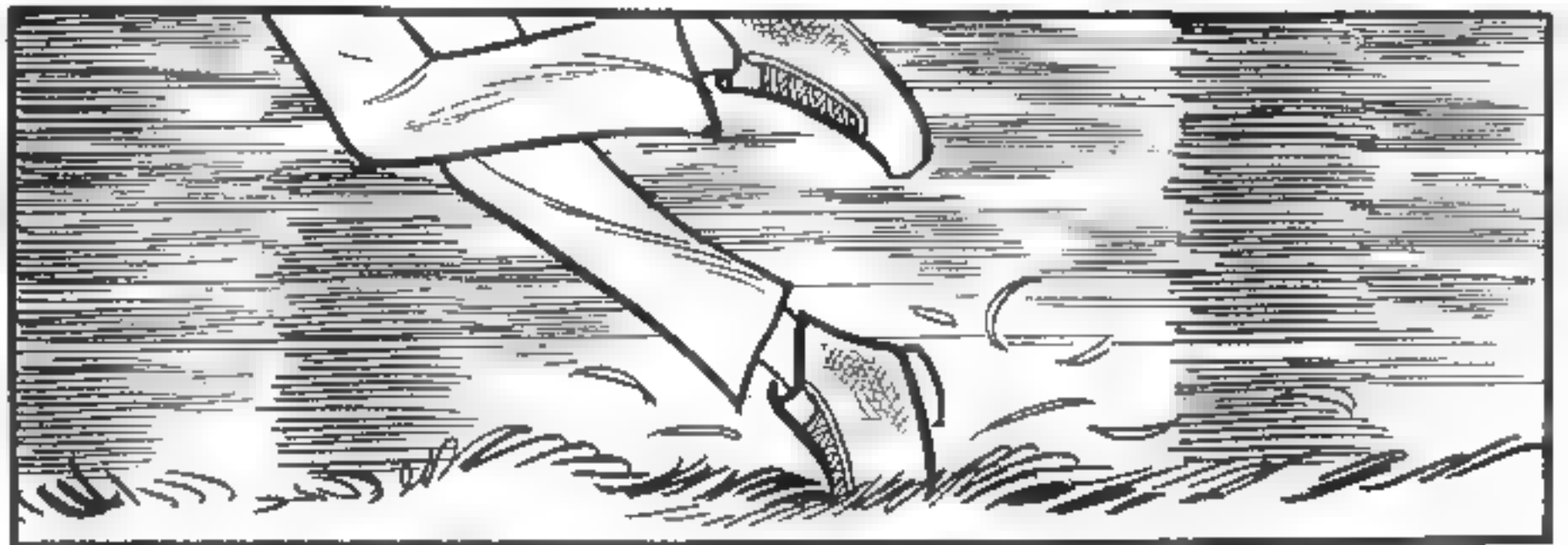
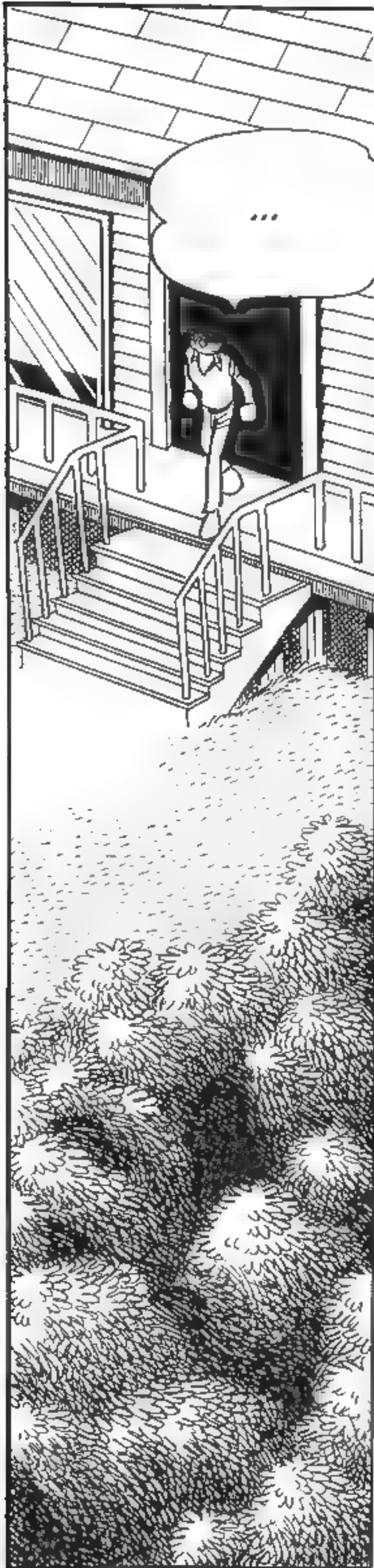
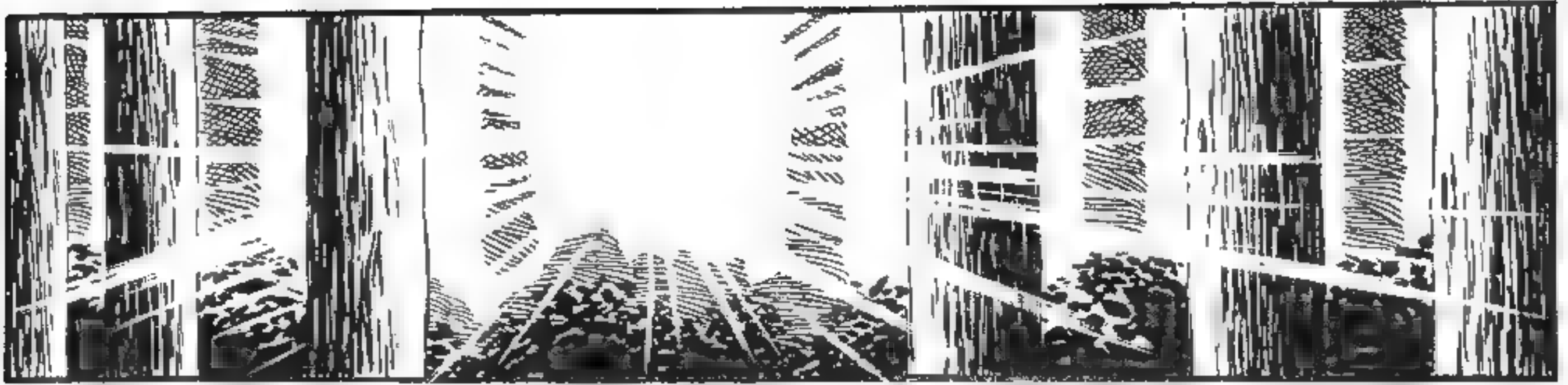
CHIRP-
CHIRP-
CHIRP

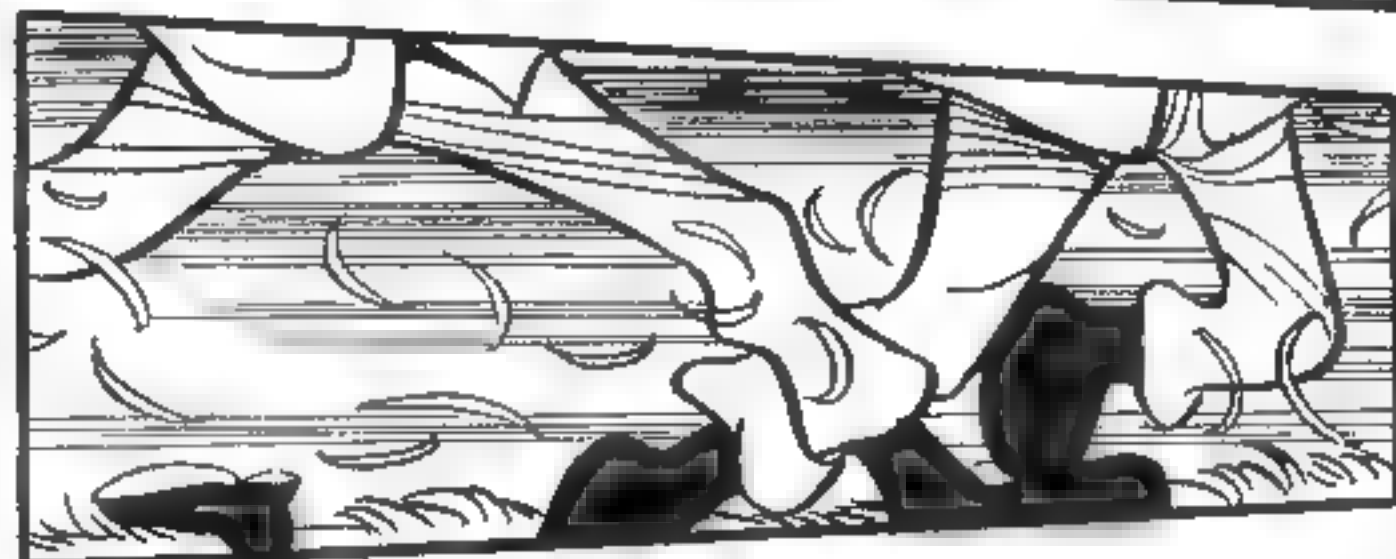
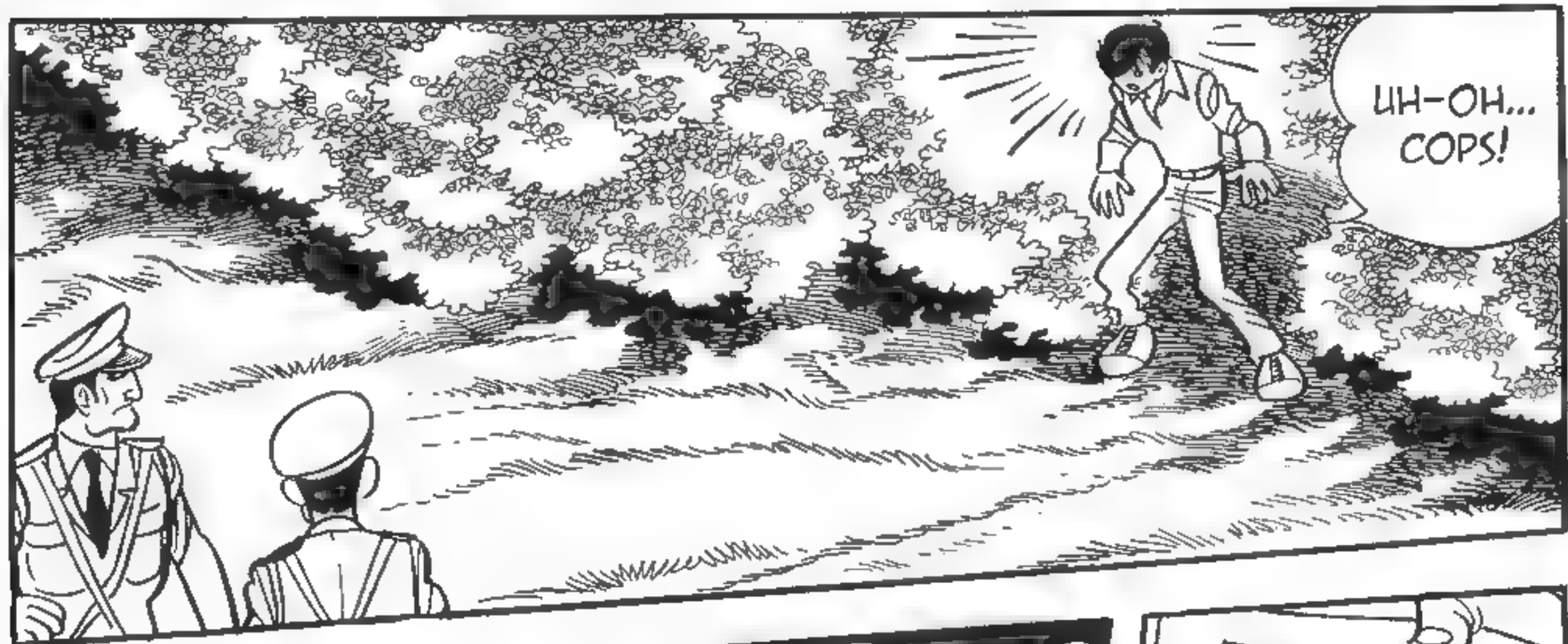
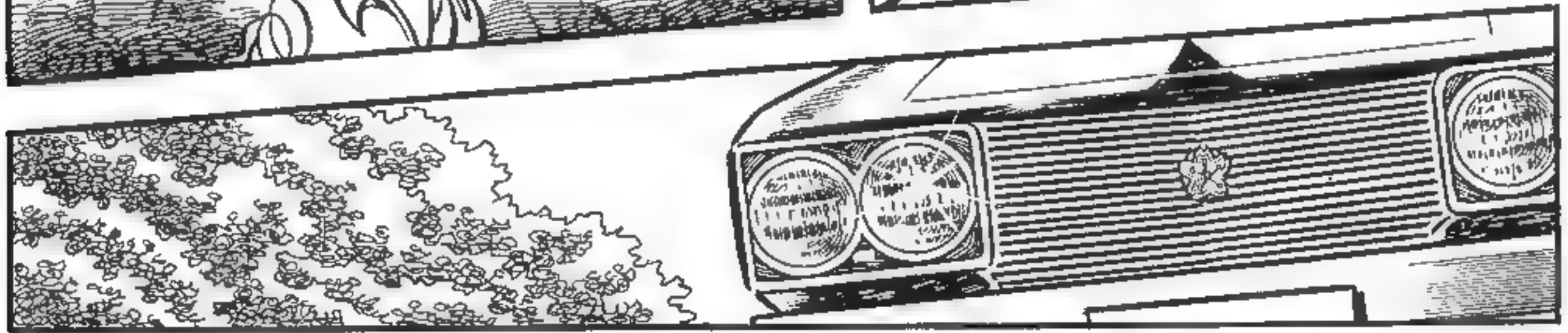


WHO ON
EARTH
IS SHE?
IF SHE'S
NOT FROM
THE HOSPITAL,
WHAT DOES
SHE WANT
WITH ME?

ALONE
ON A
MOUNTAIN
WITH
SOME
WOMAN...
AND
I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHO
SHE IS!

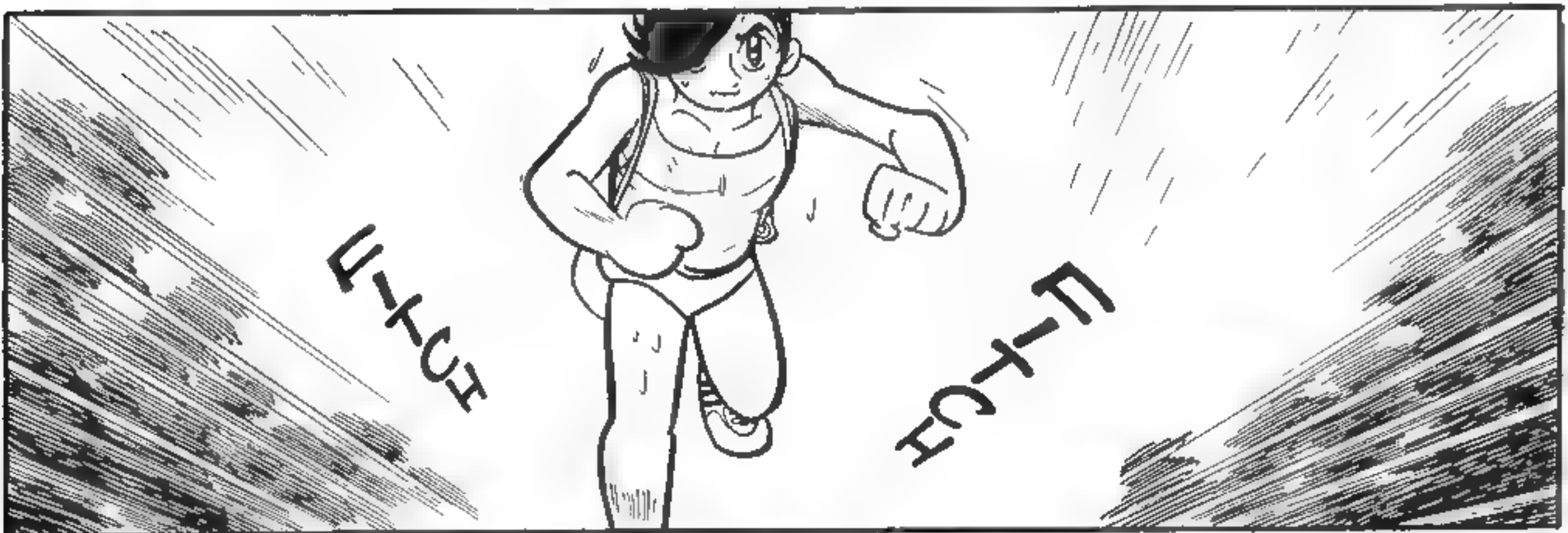
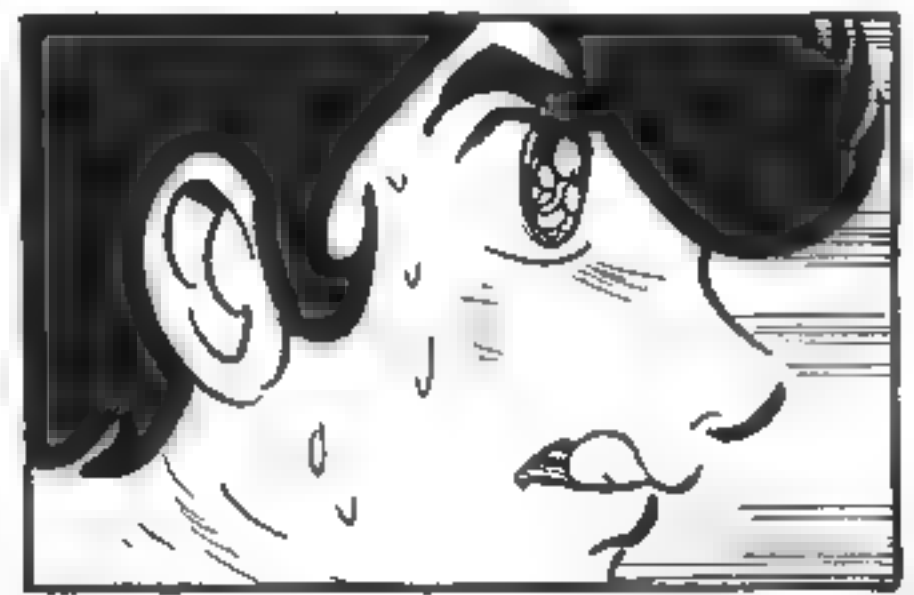
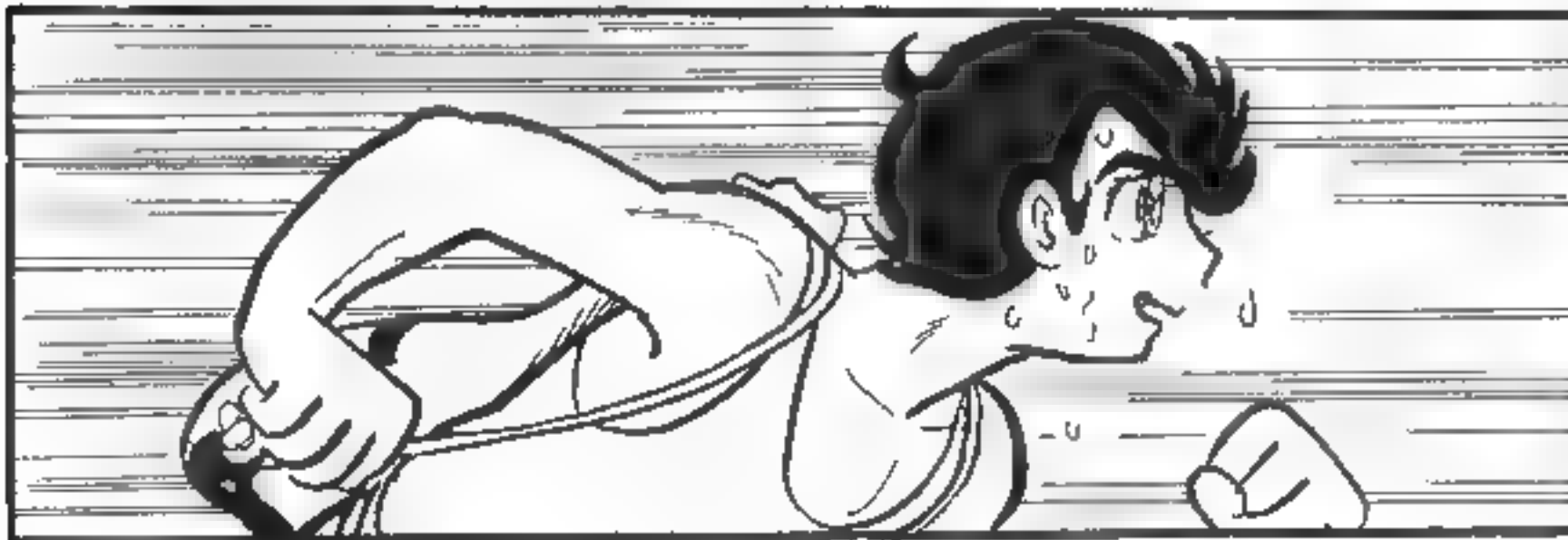
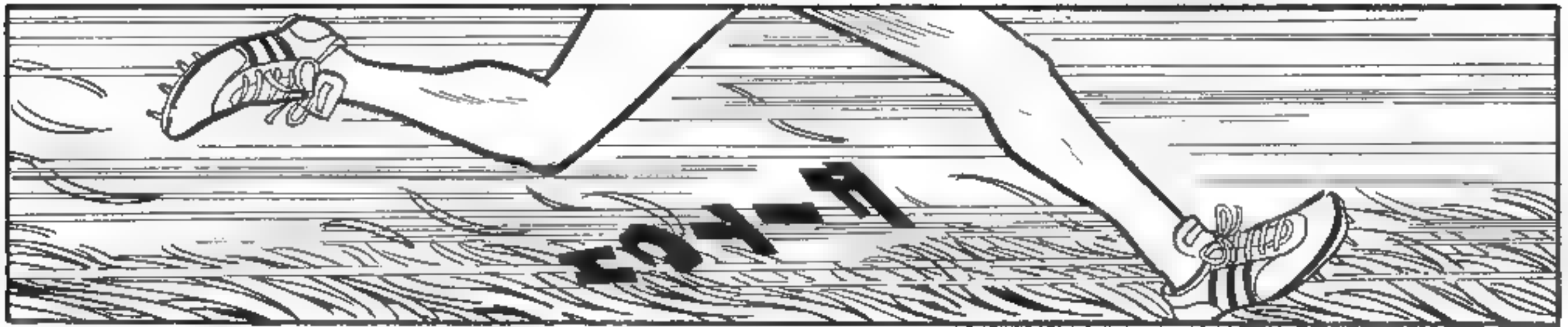
BETTER
MAKE
A BREAK
FOR IT
FIRST
THING
IN THE
MORNING.

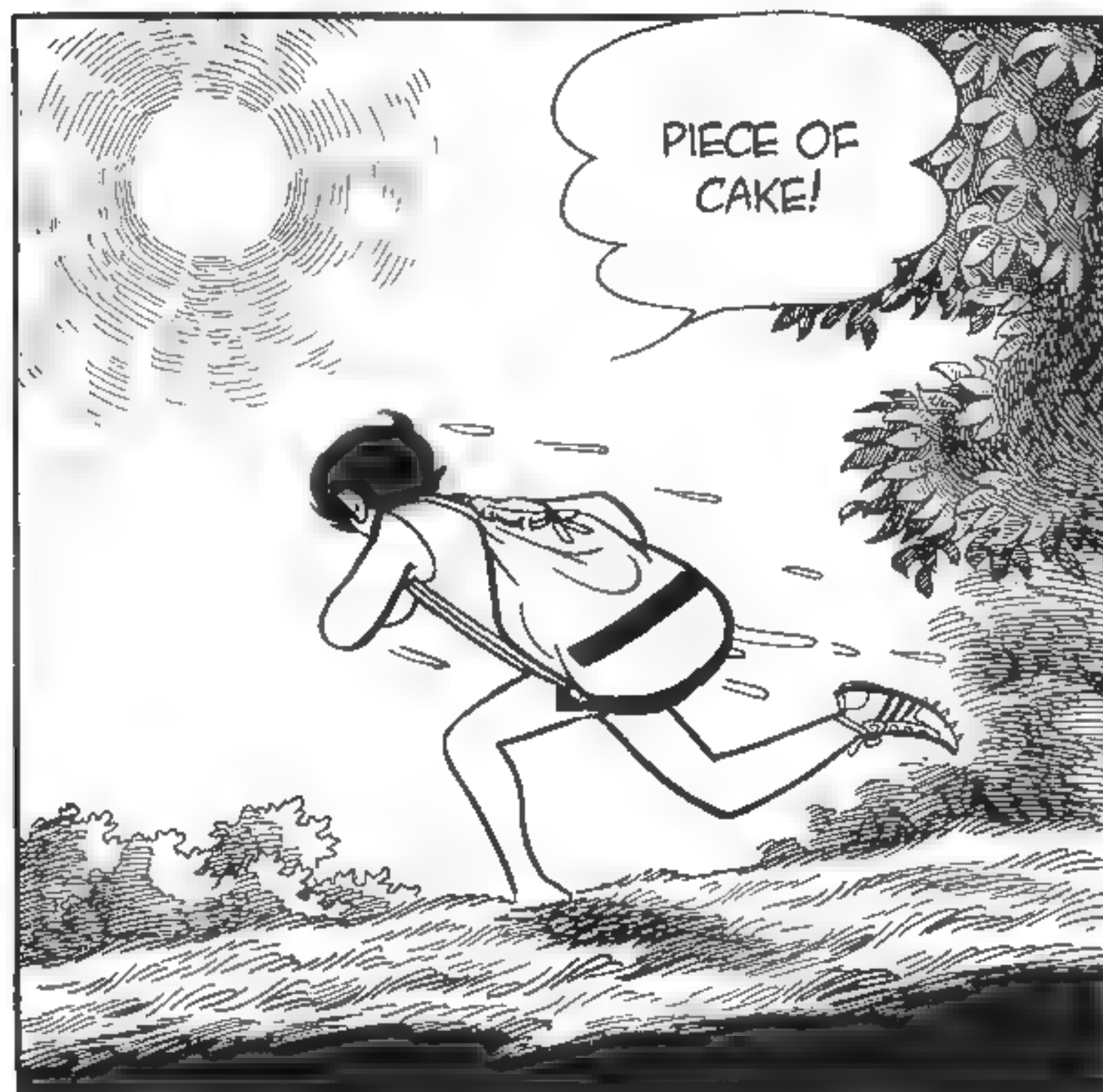
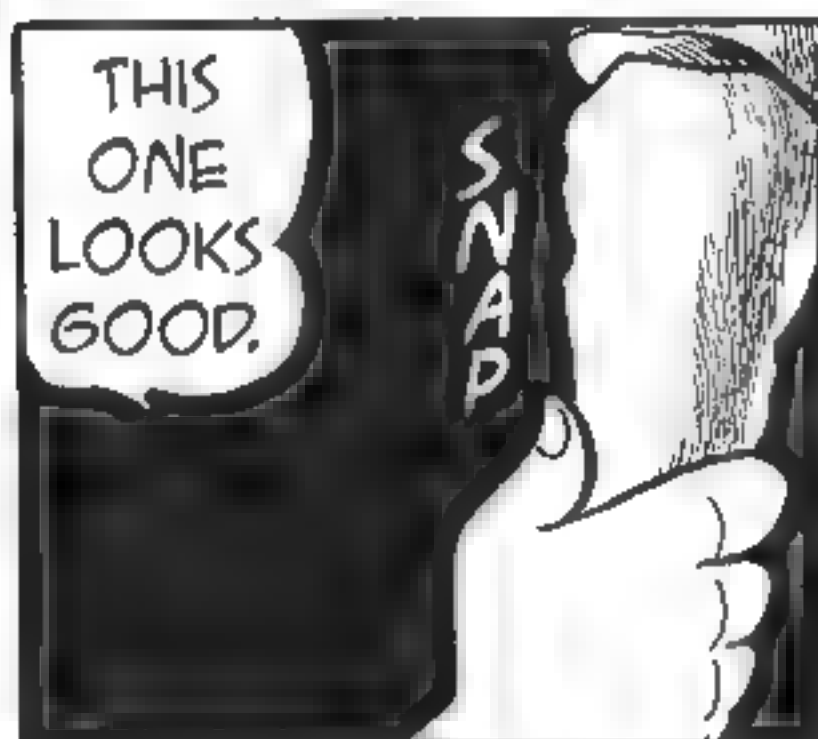
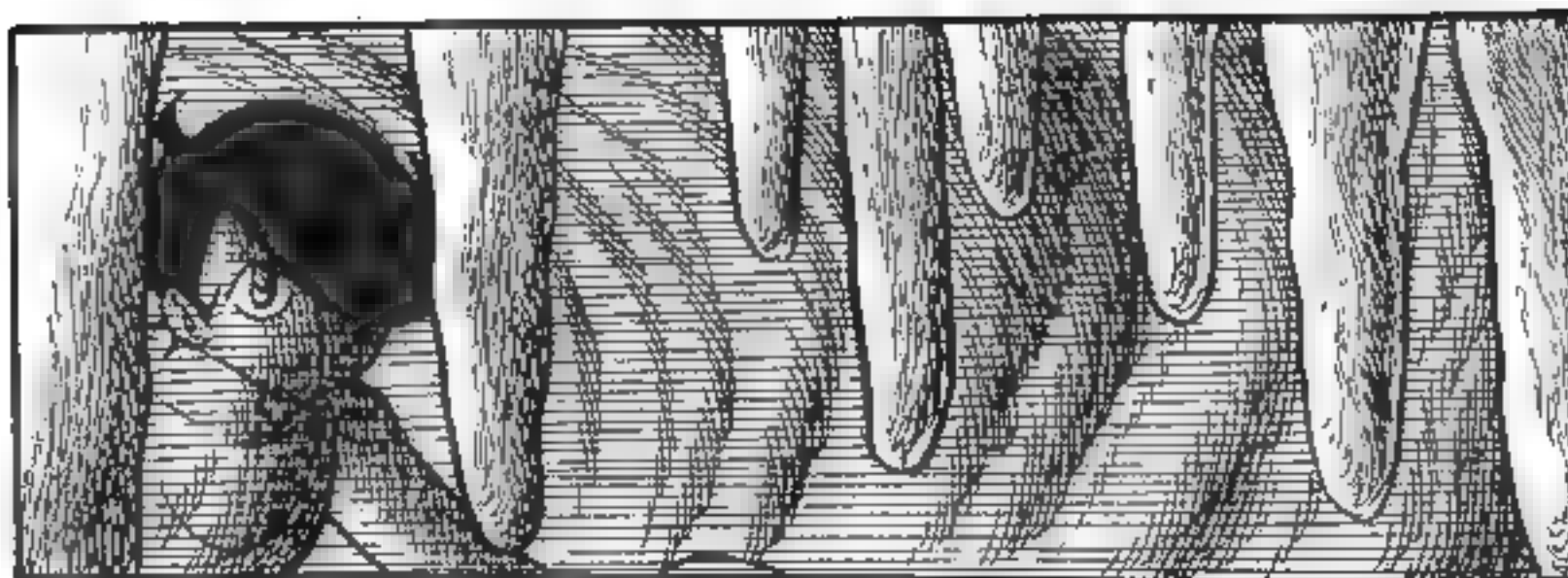


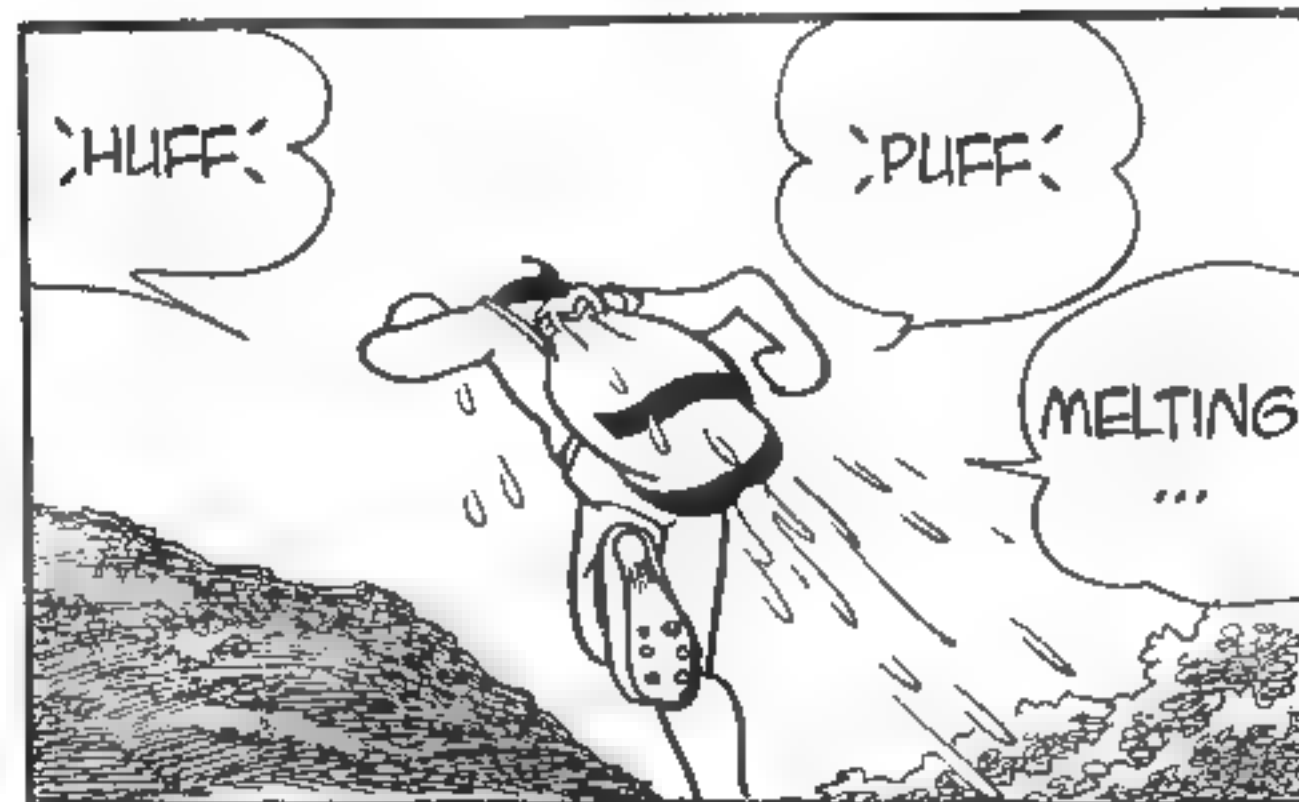
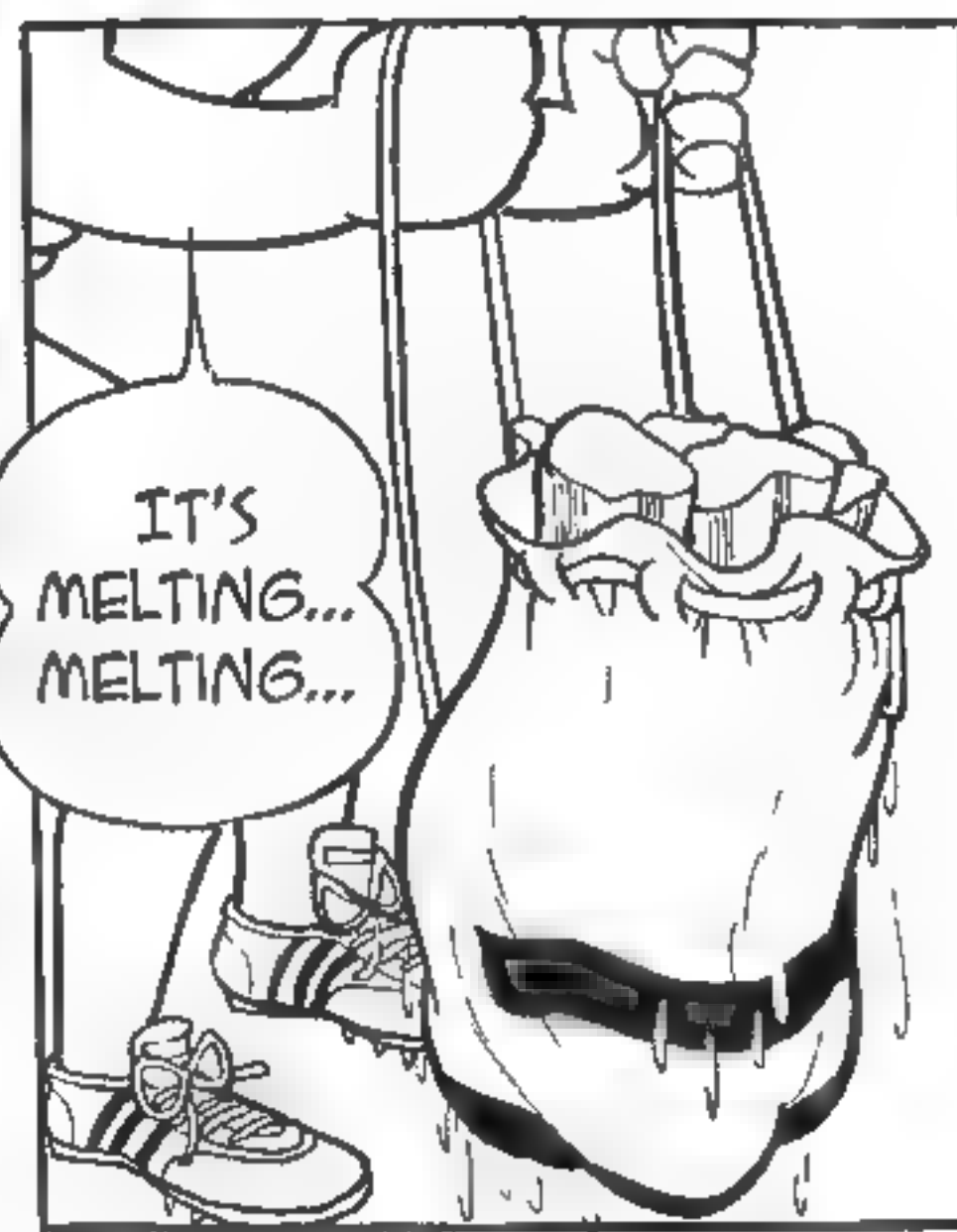




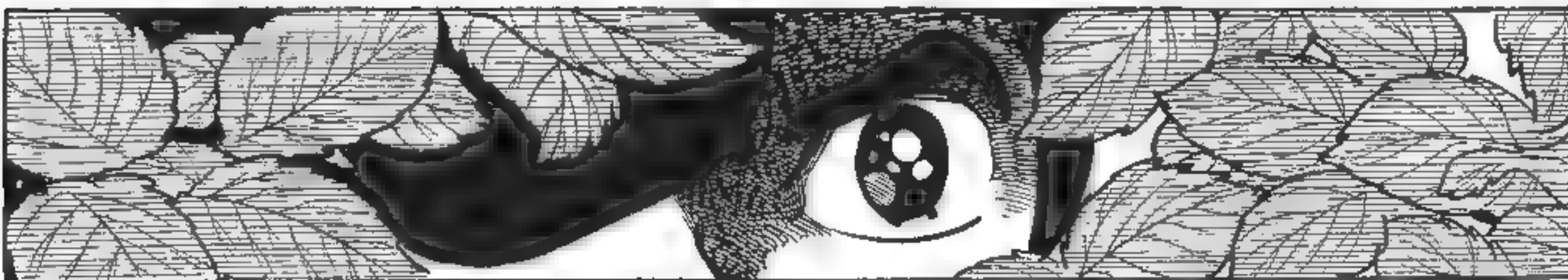
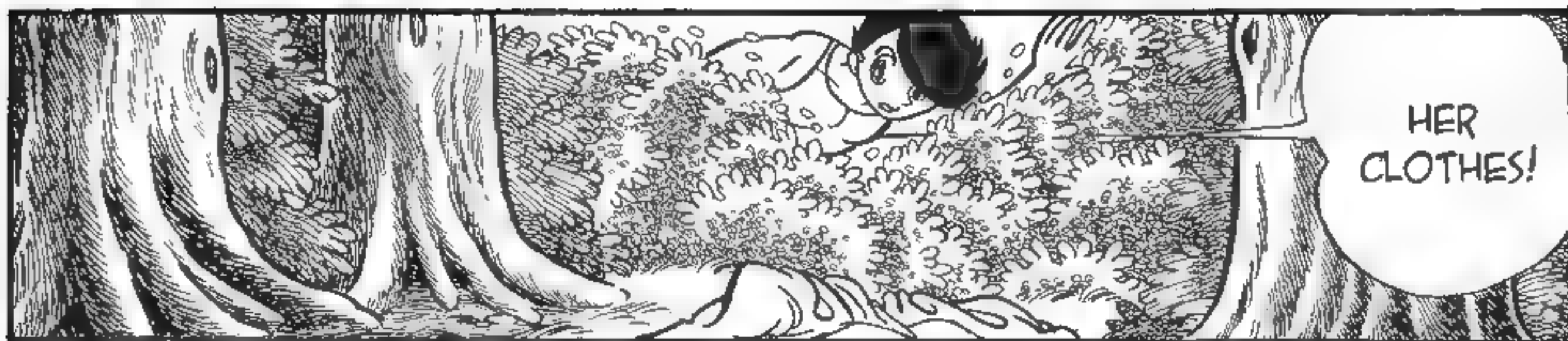




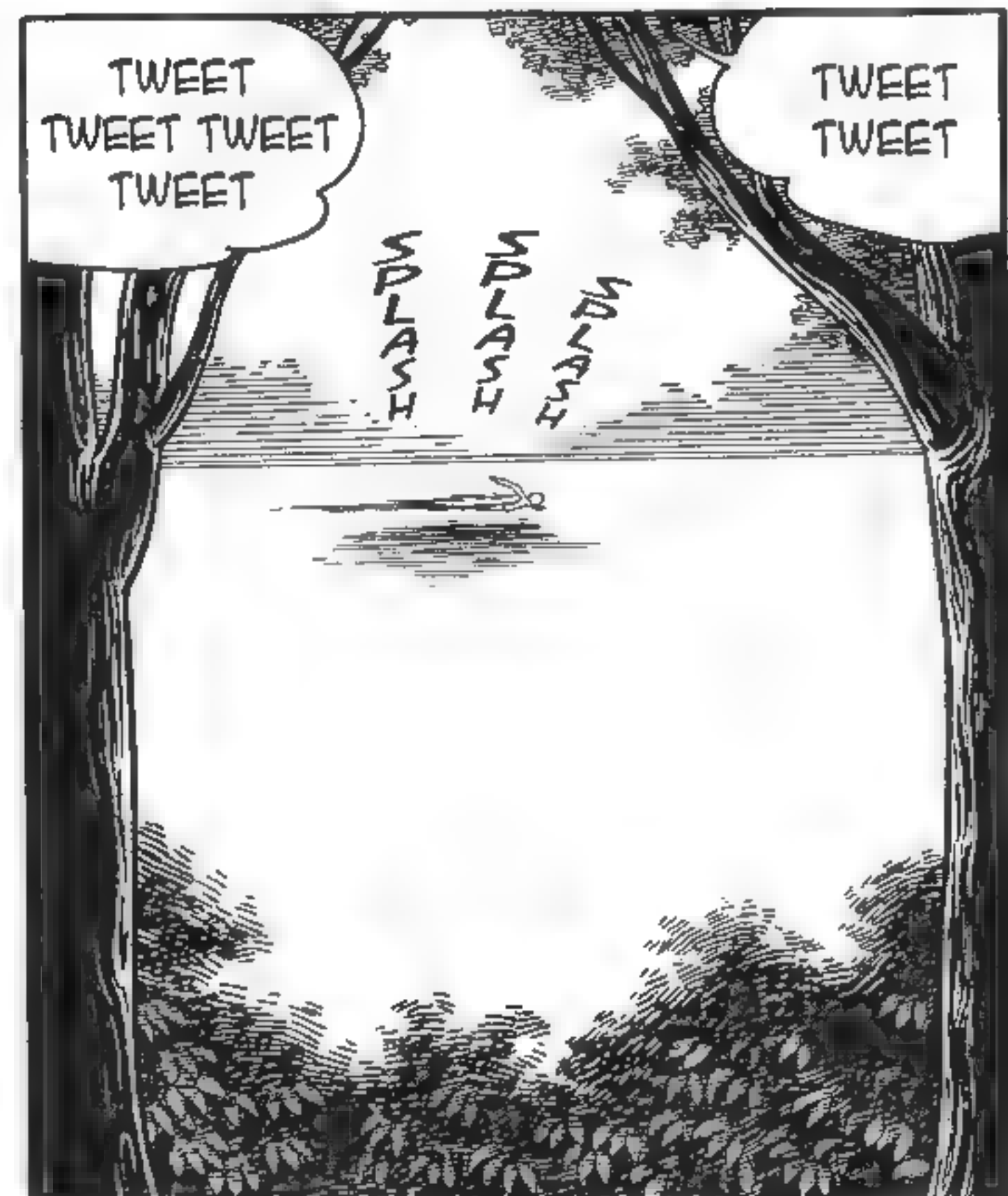
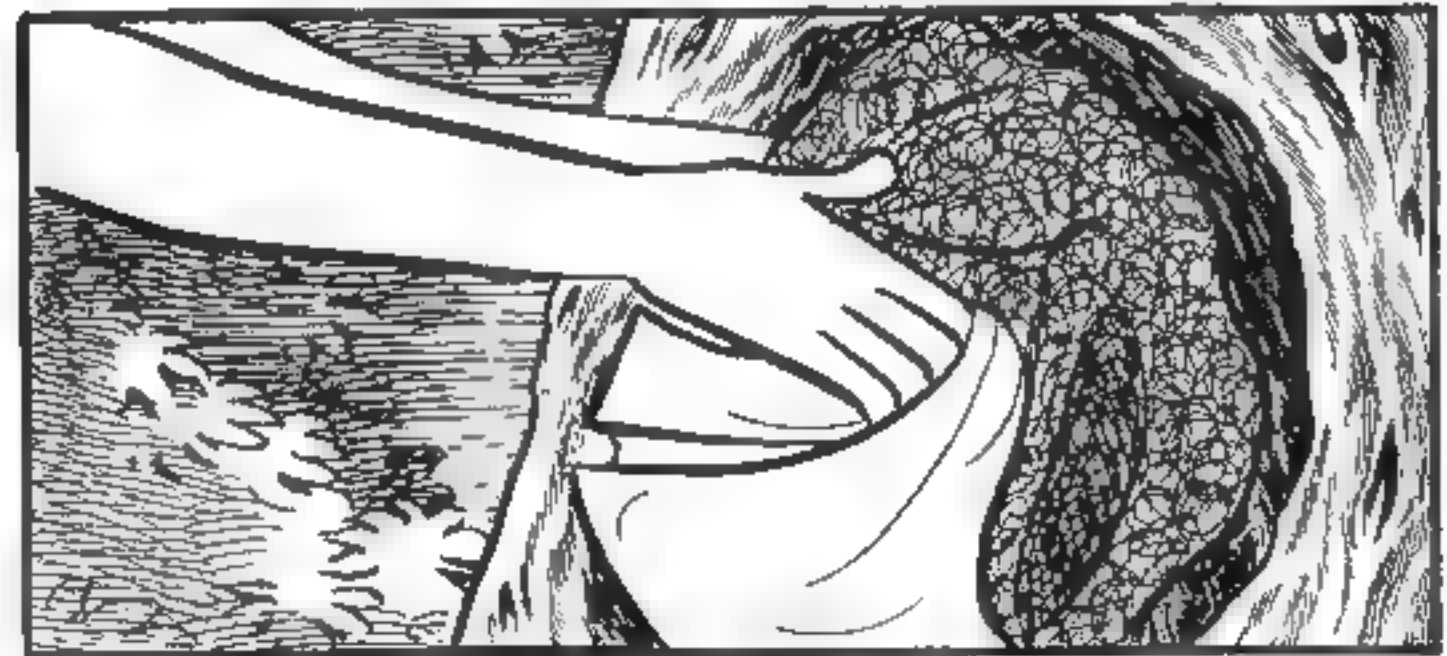
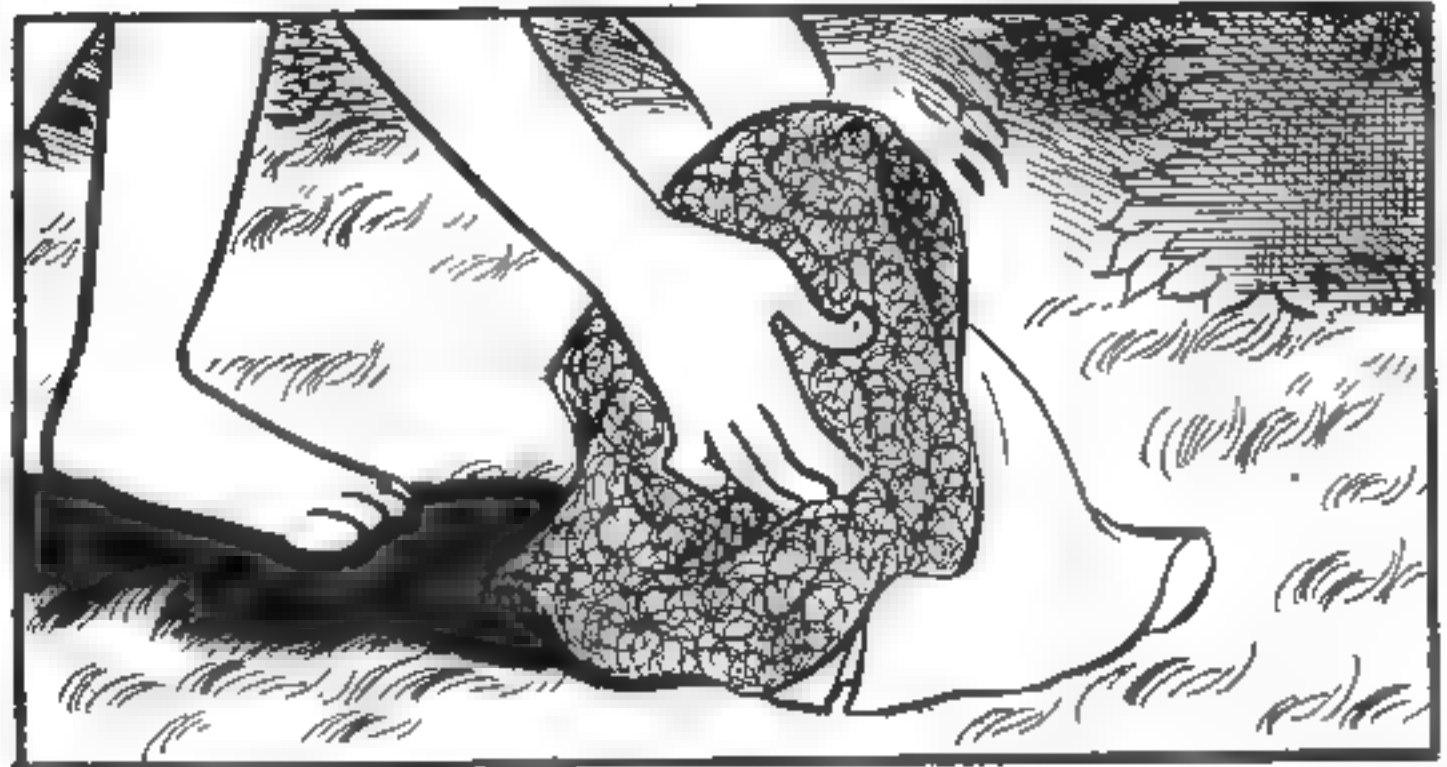
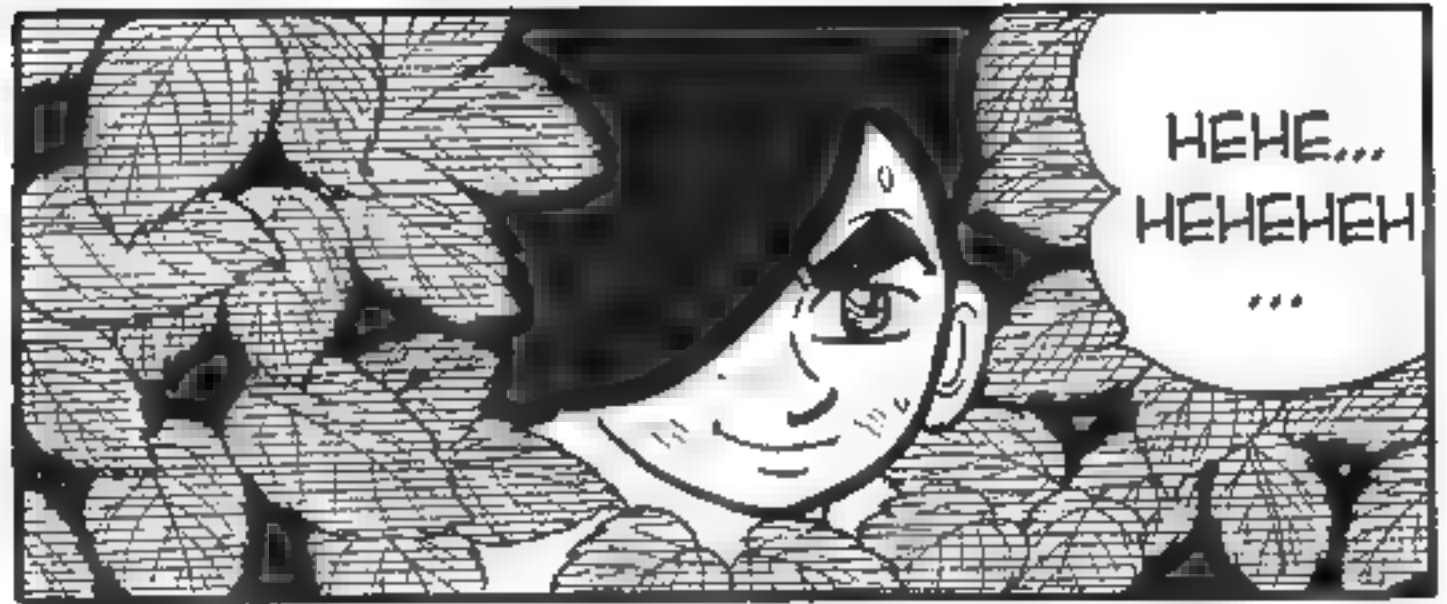
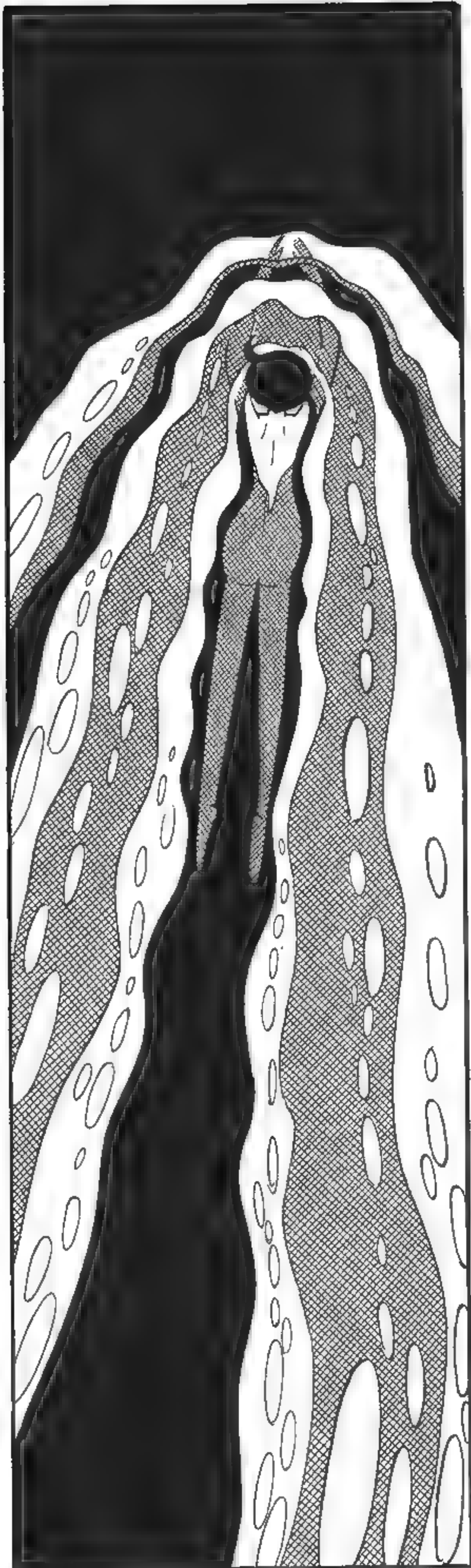


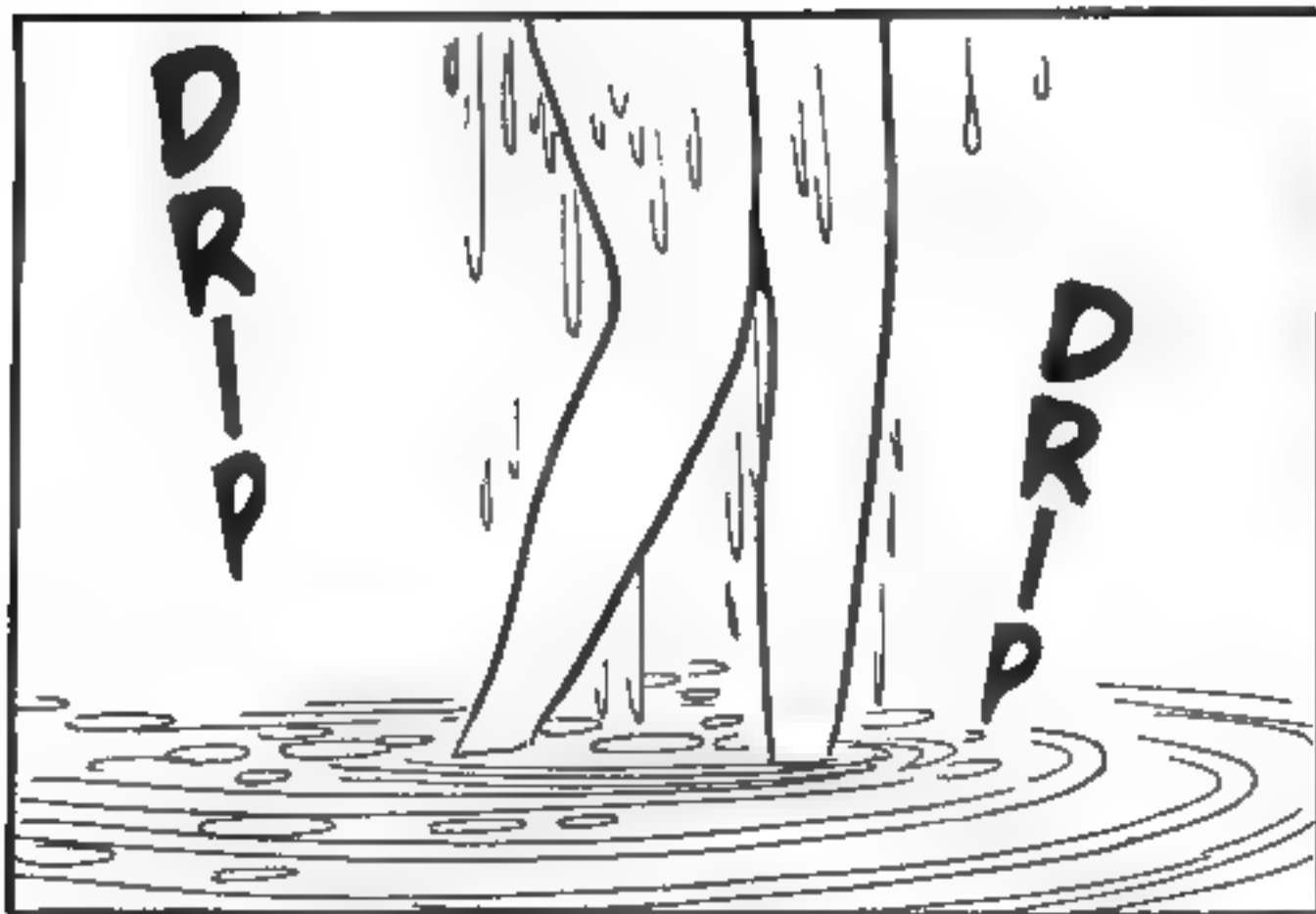










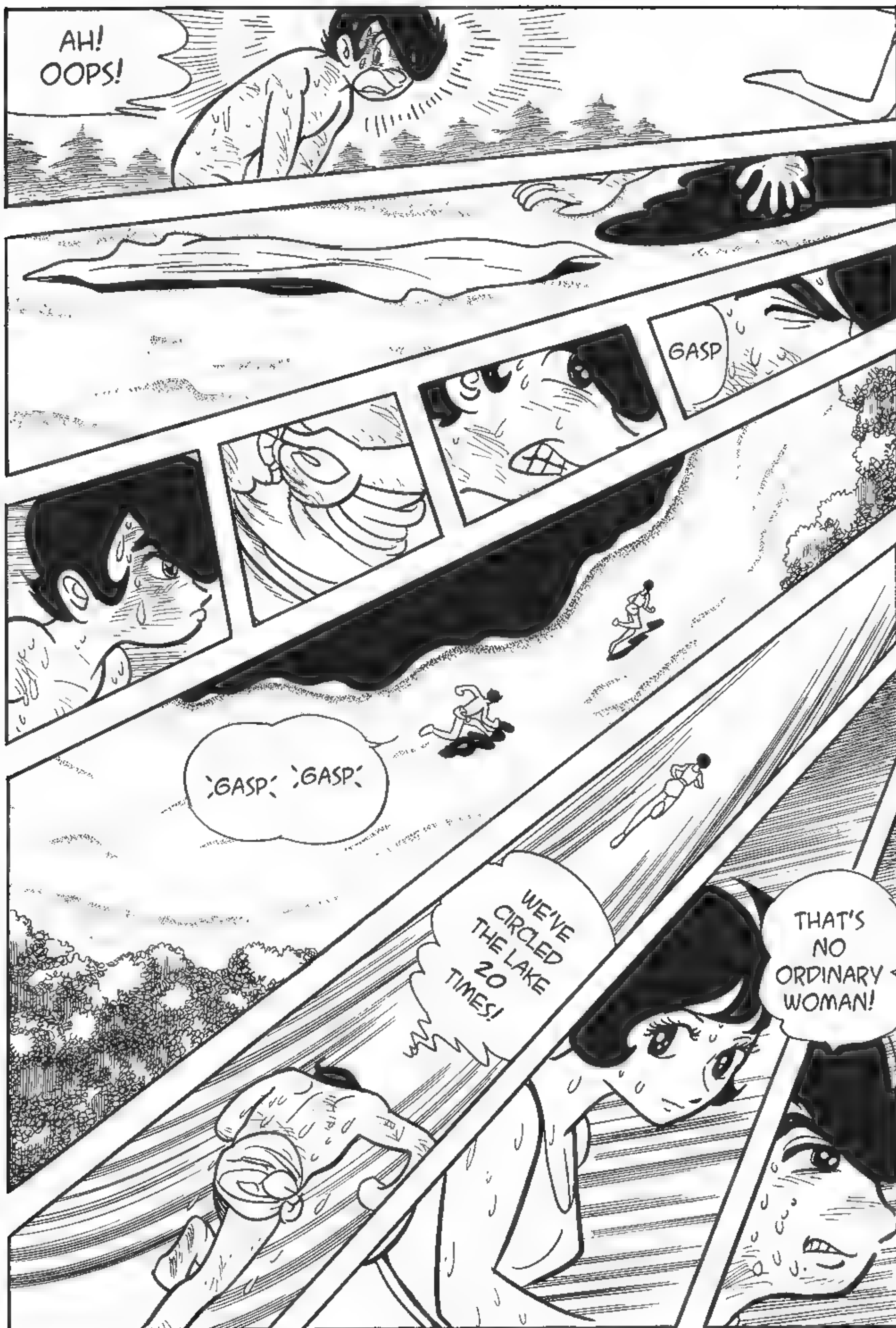


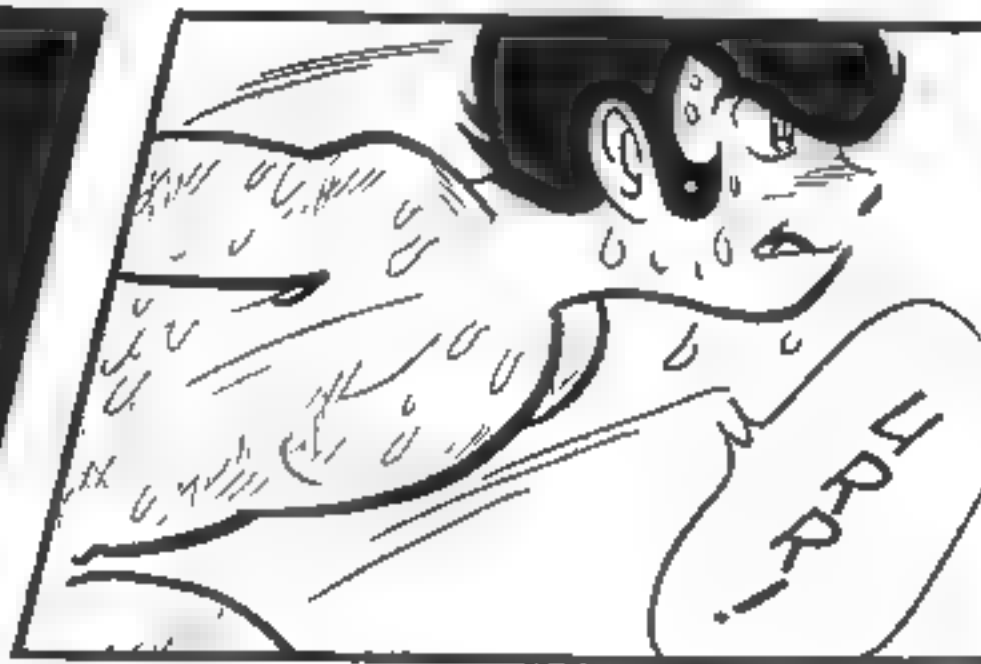
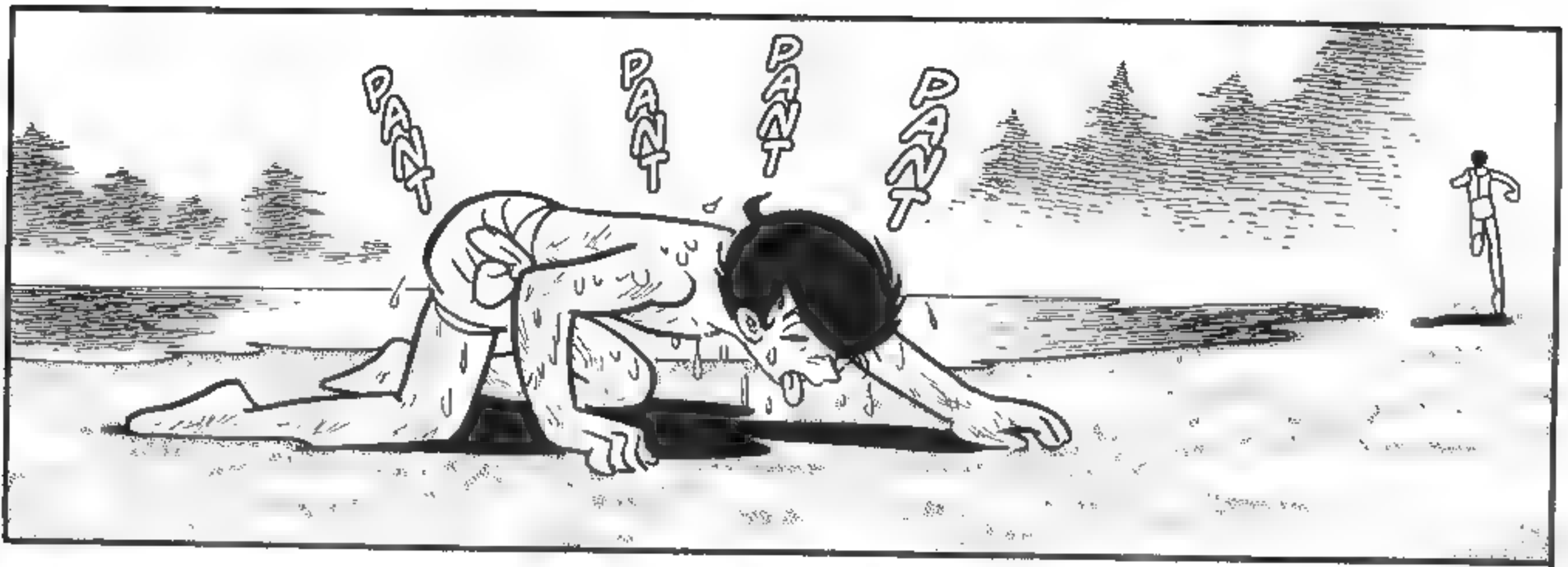


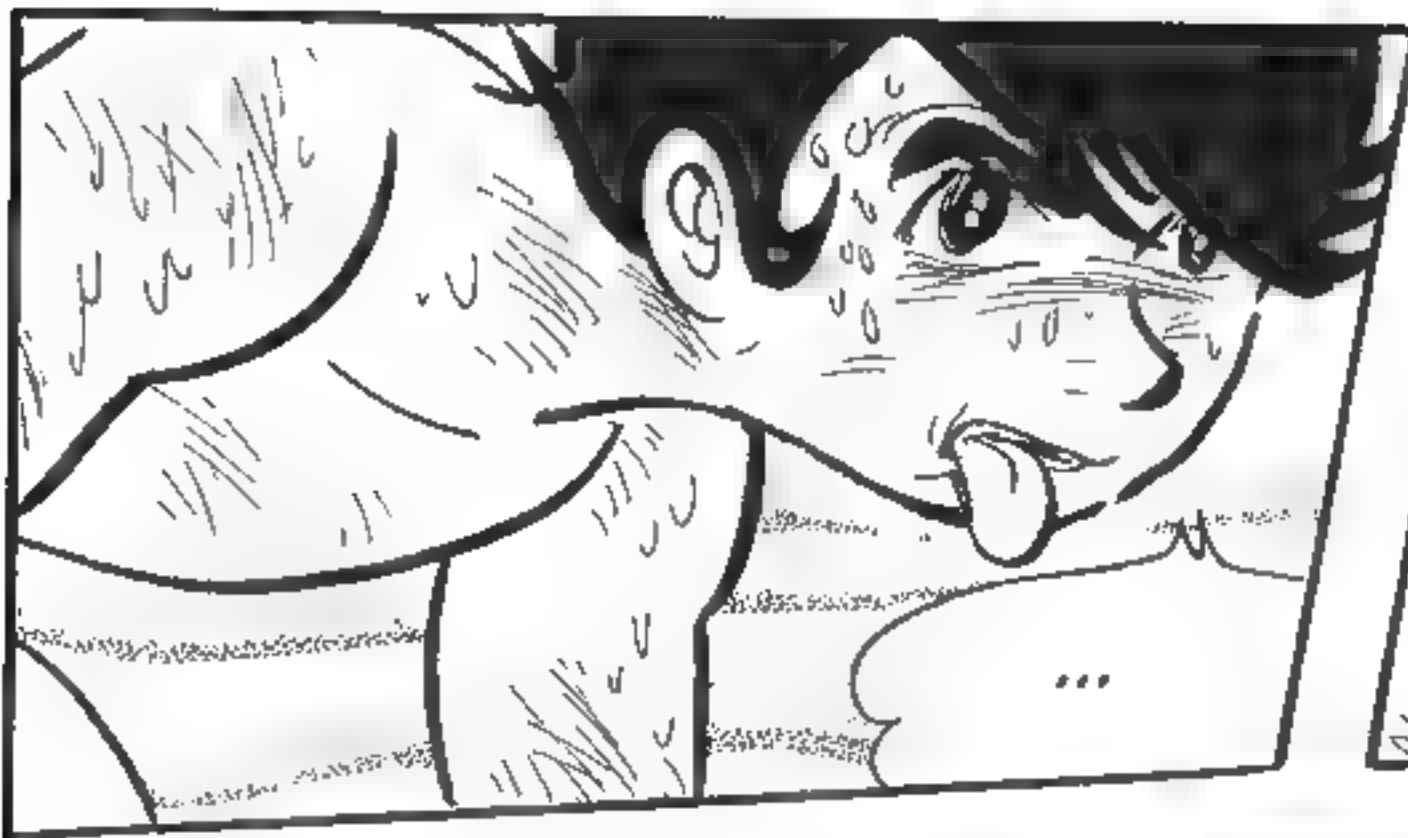




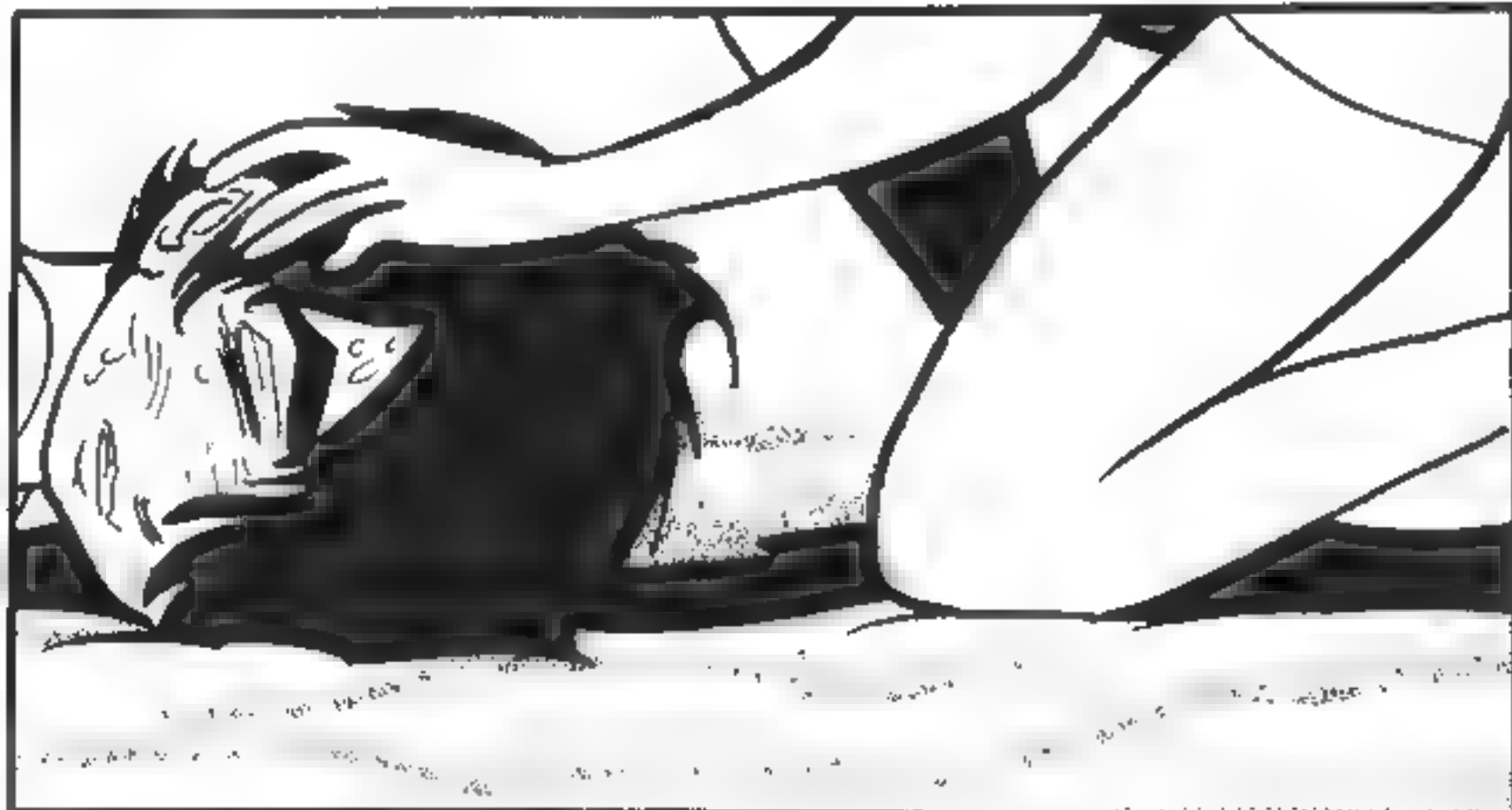
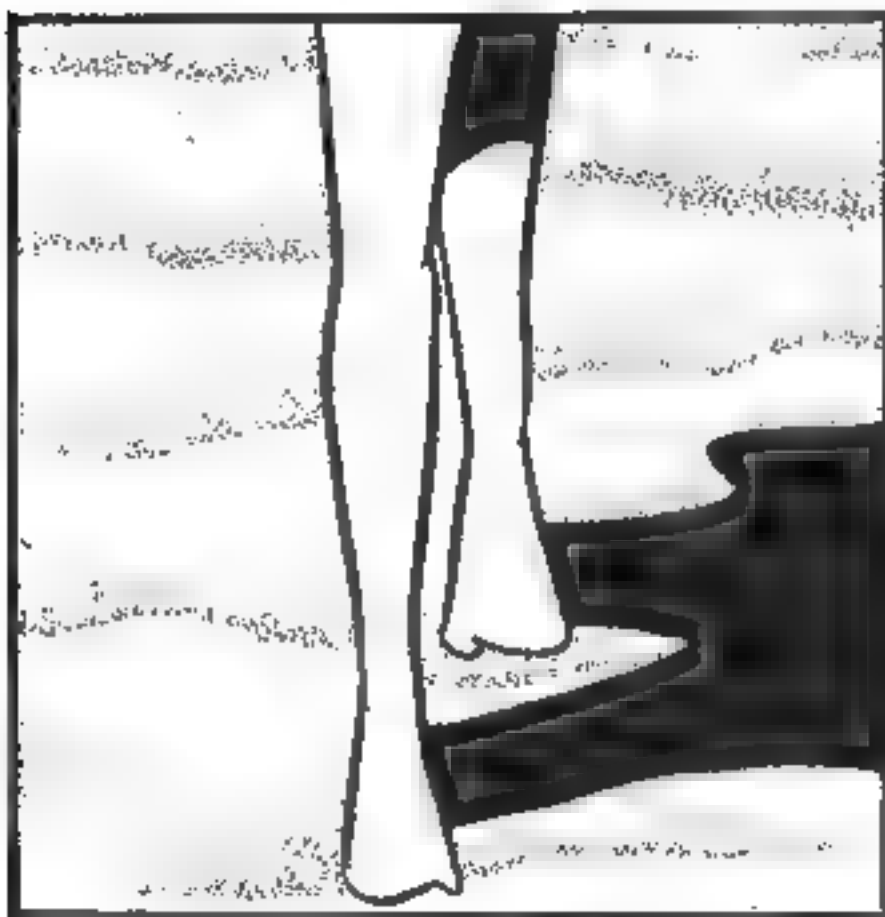


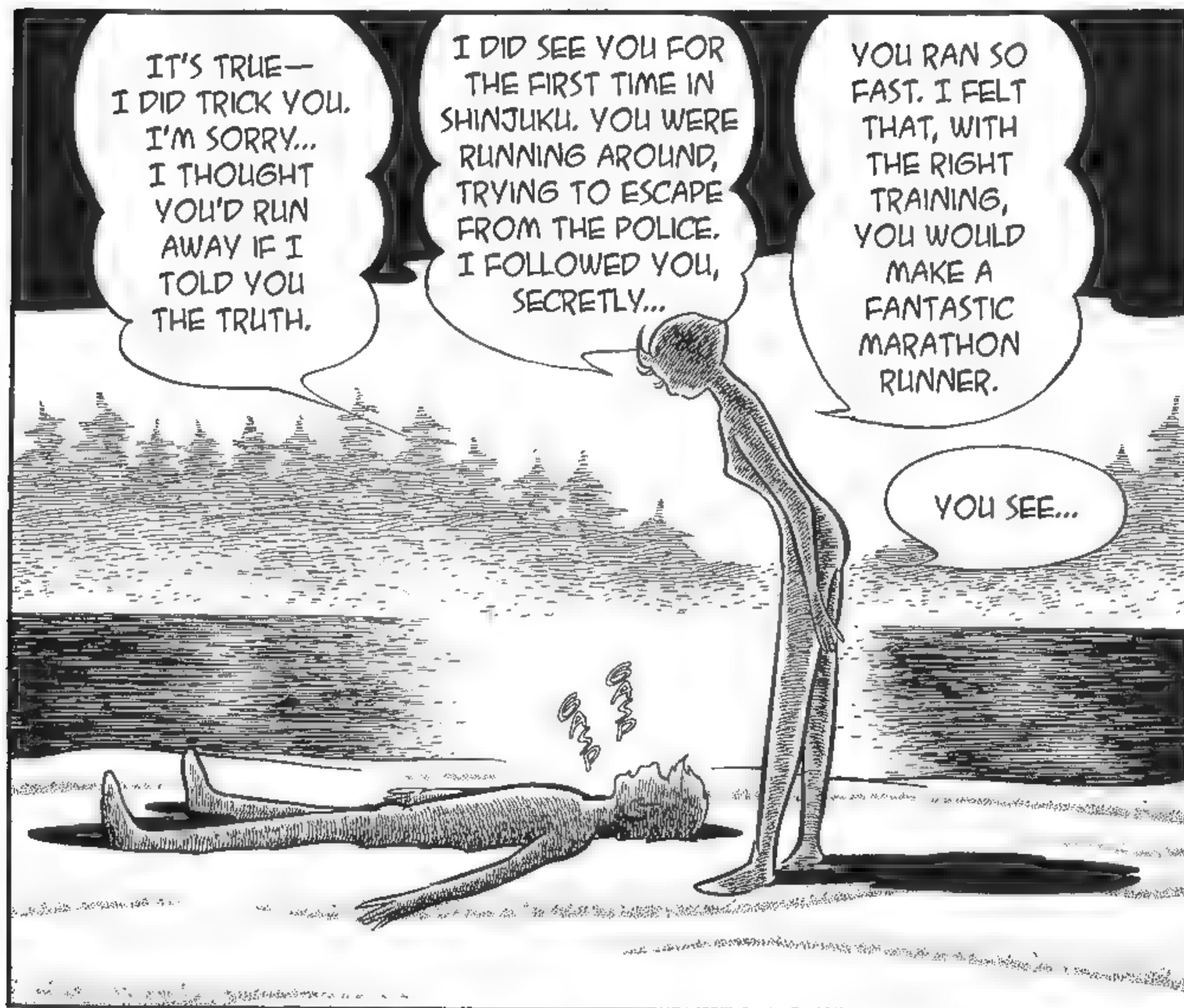
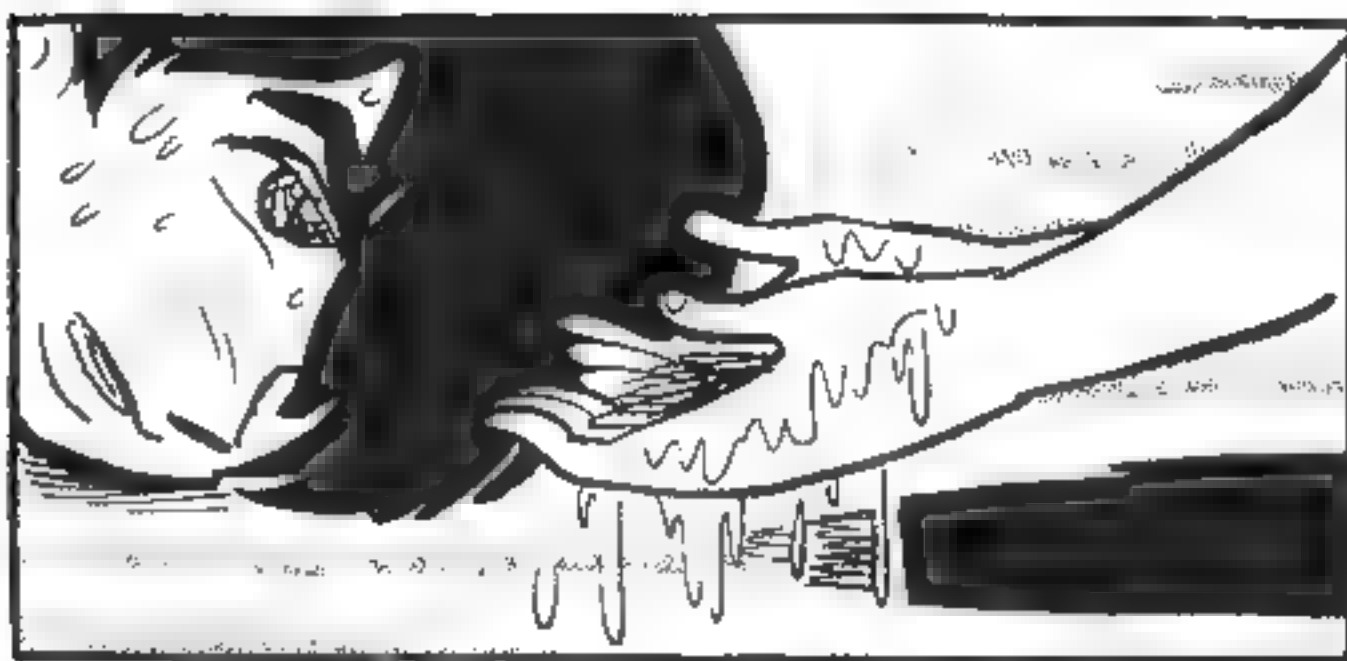


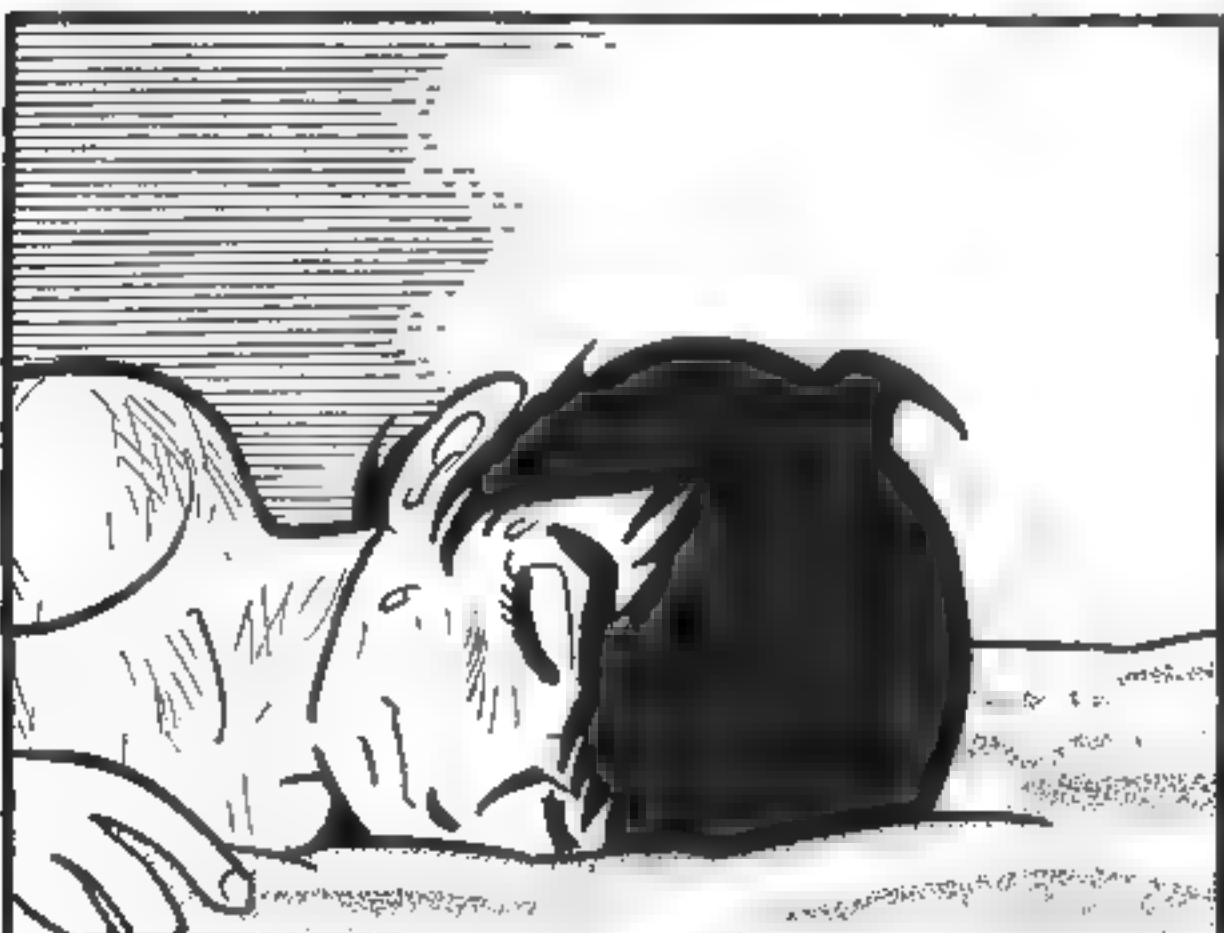












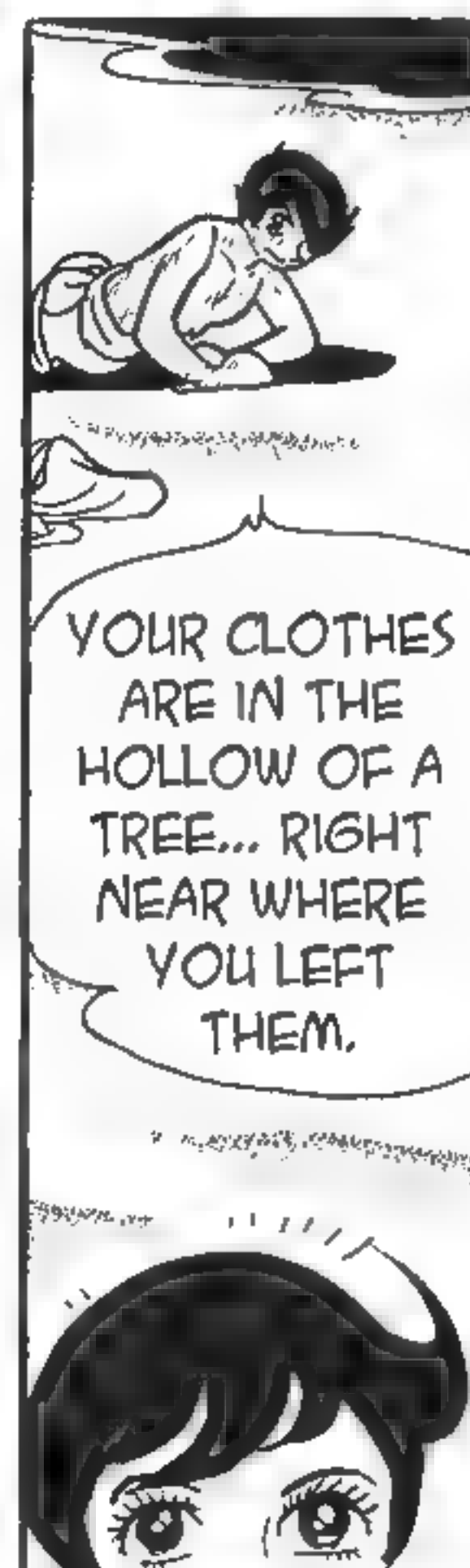
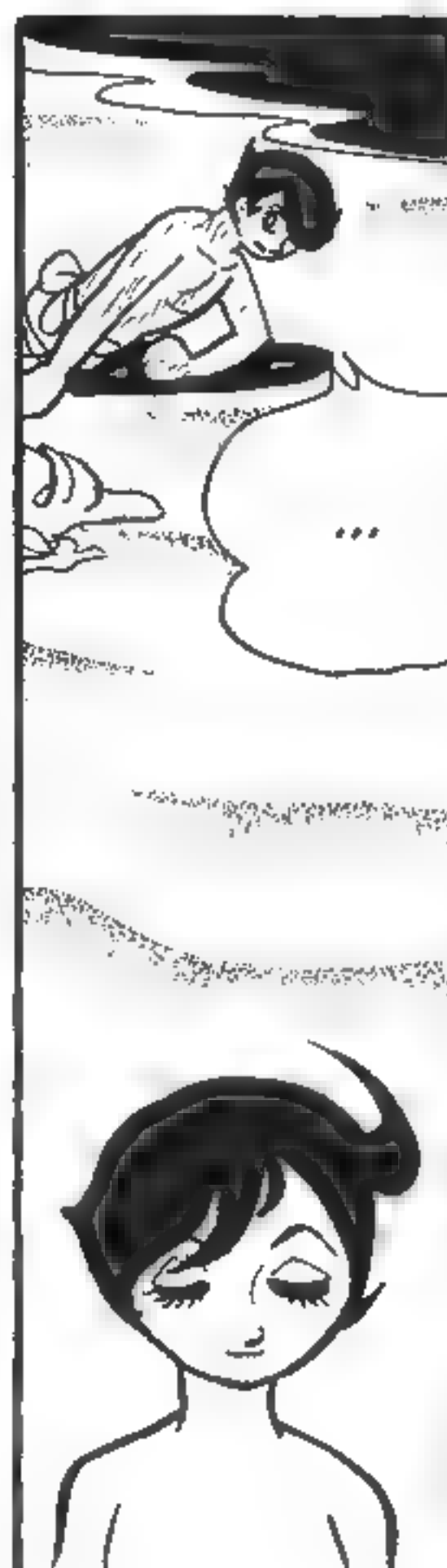
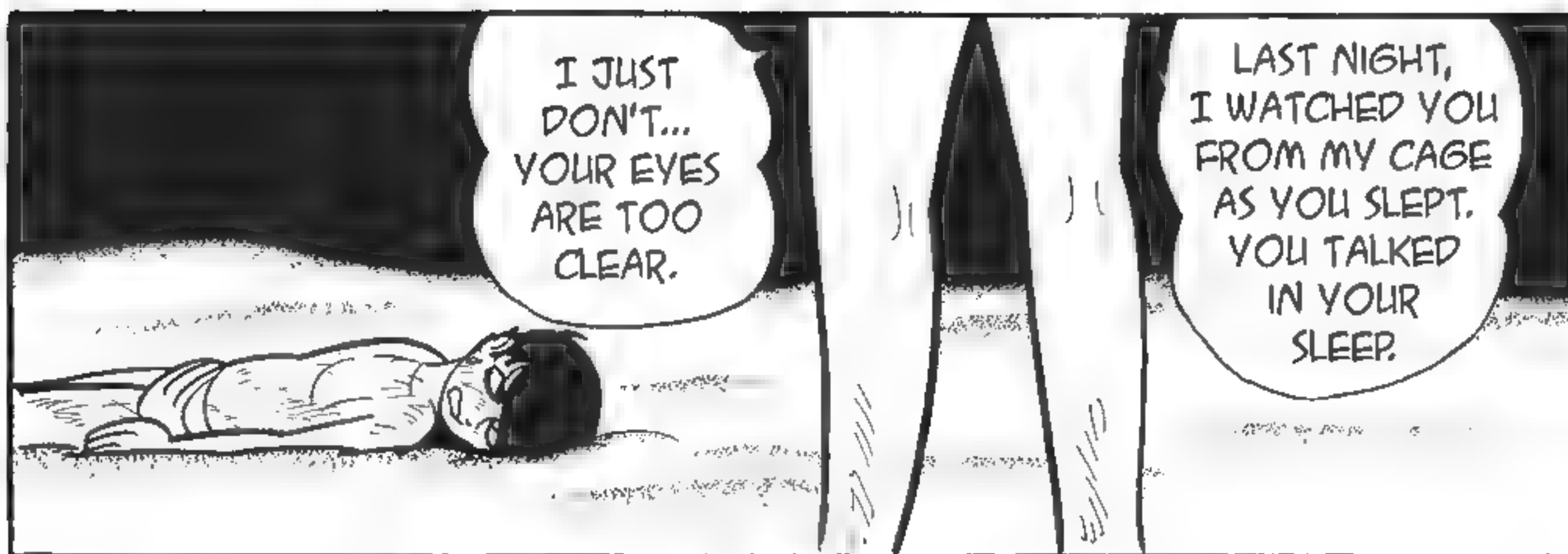


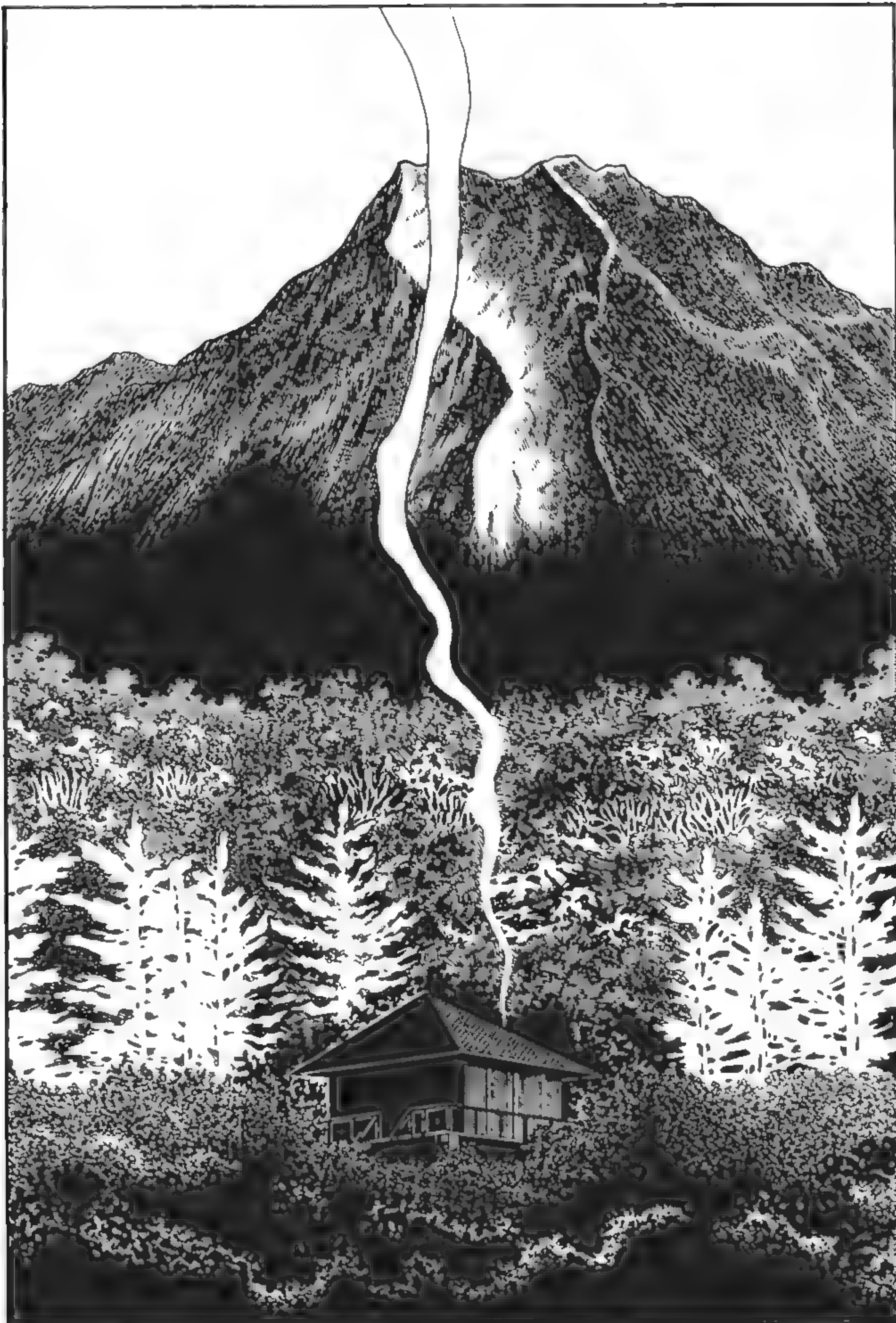
YOU'RE TOO
EXHAUSTED
TO MOVE.

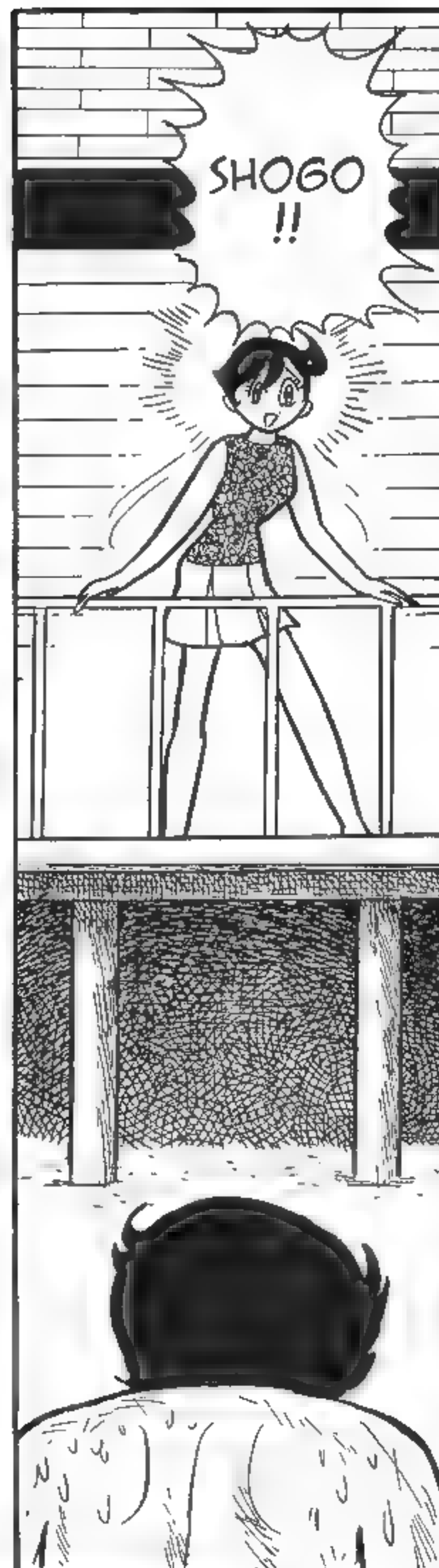
YOU'RE FREE NOW,
EVEN IF YOU STAY
HERE WITH ME,
IT'S UP TO YOU
TO TRY TO BECOME
A MARATHON
RUNNER
OR NOT.

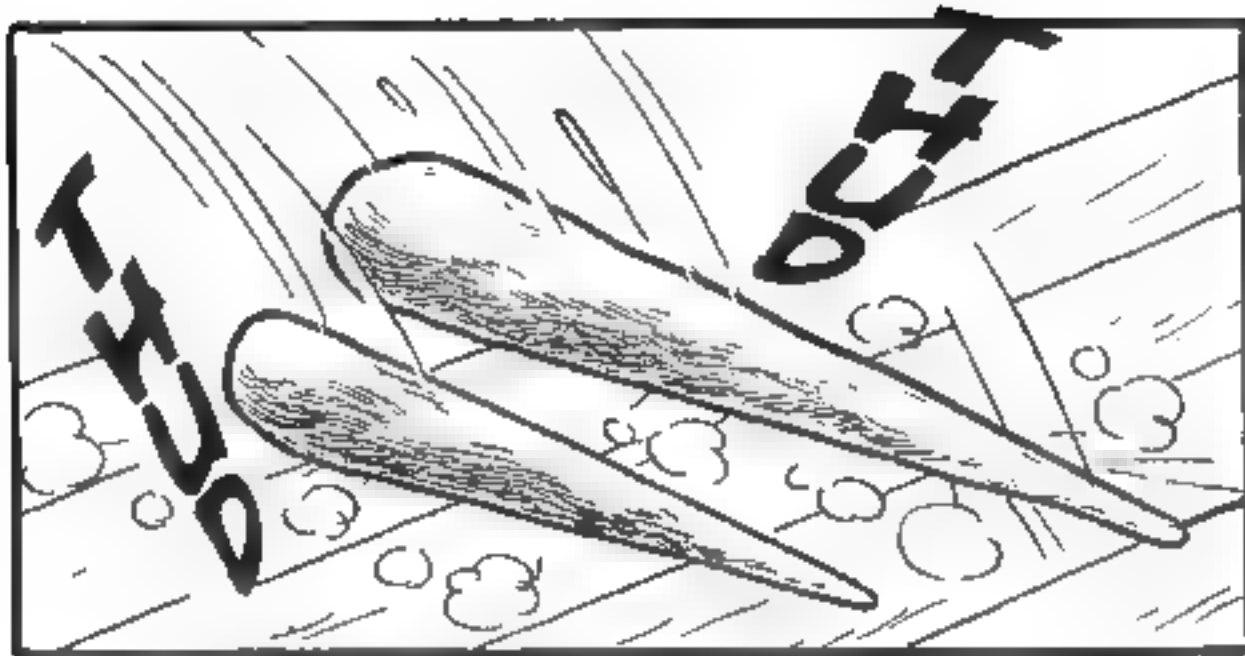
SO THERE...
THAT'S
MY EXCUSE.

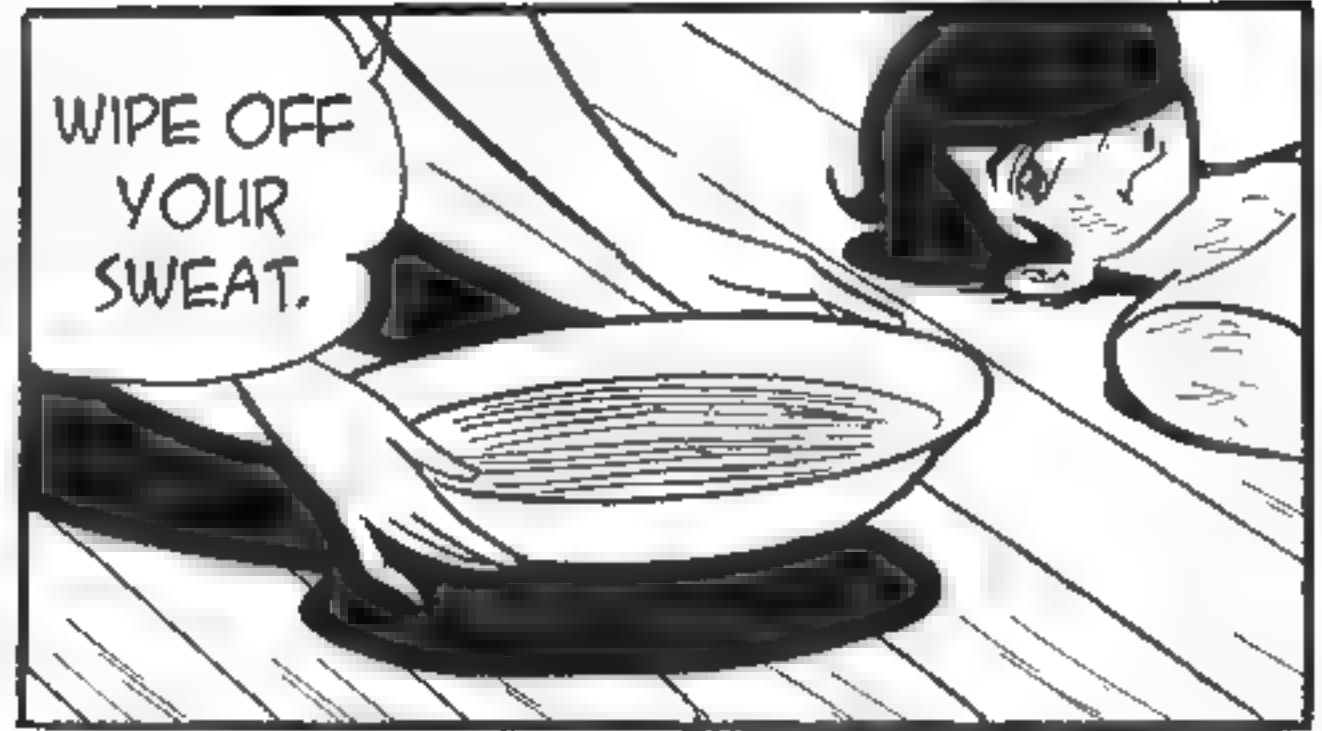




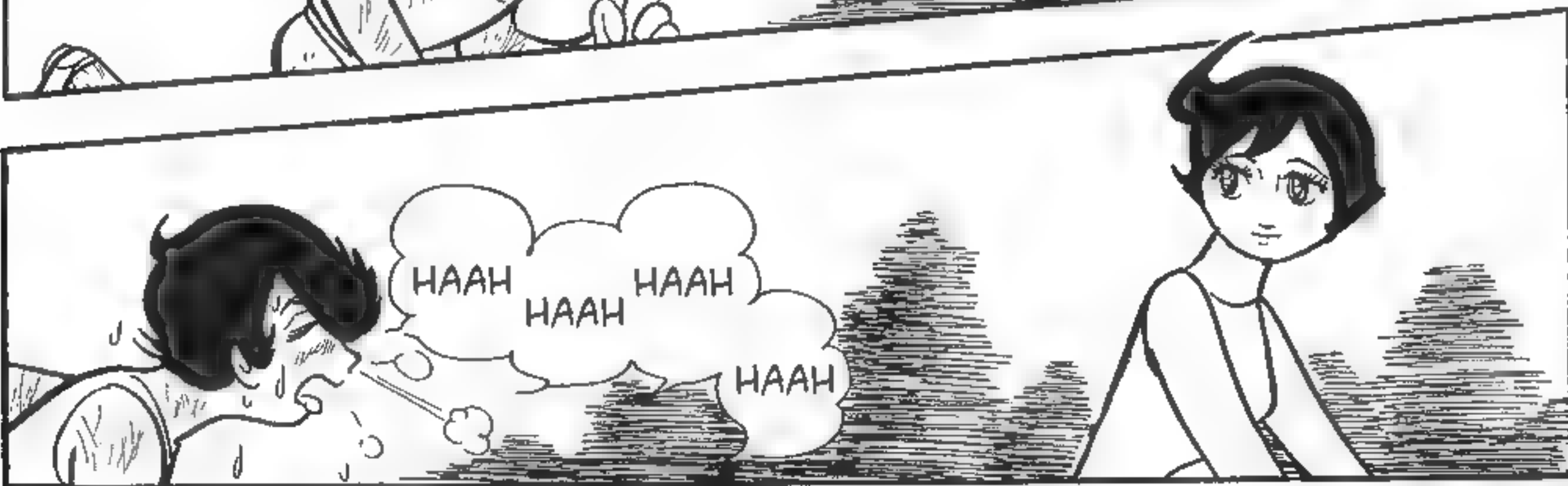
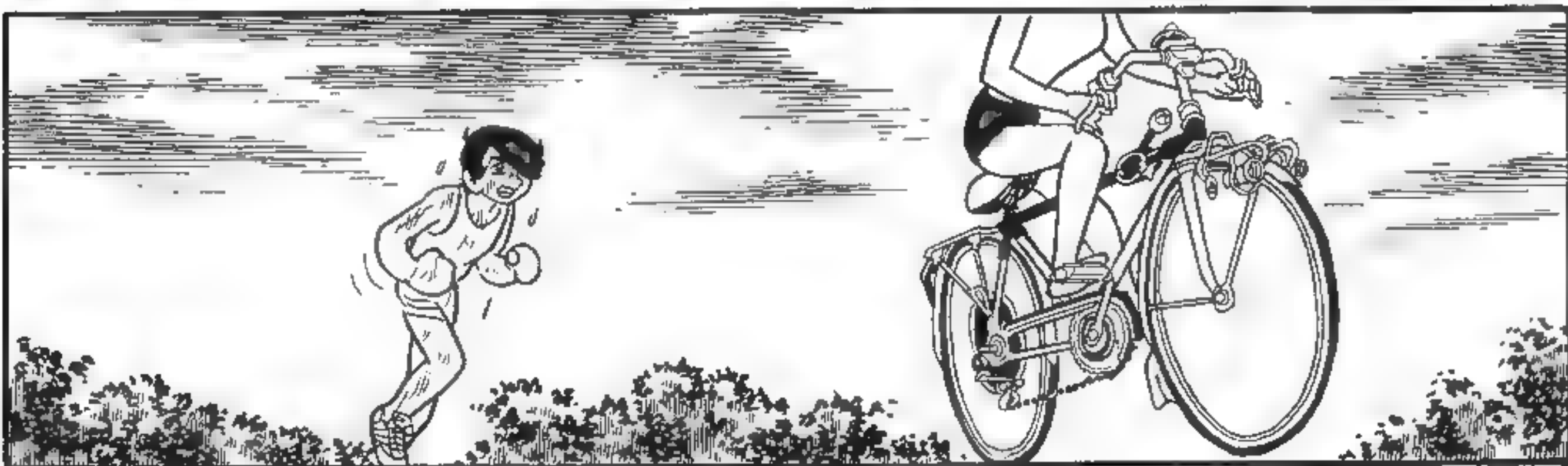
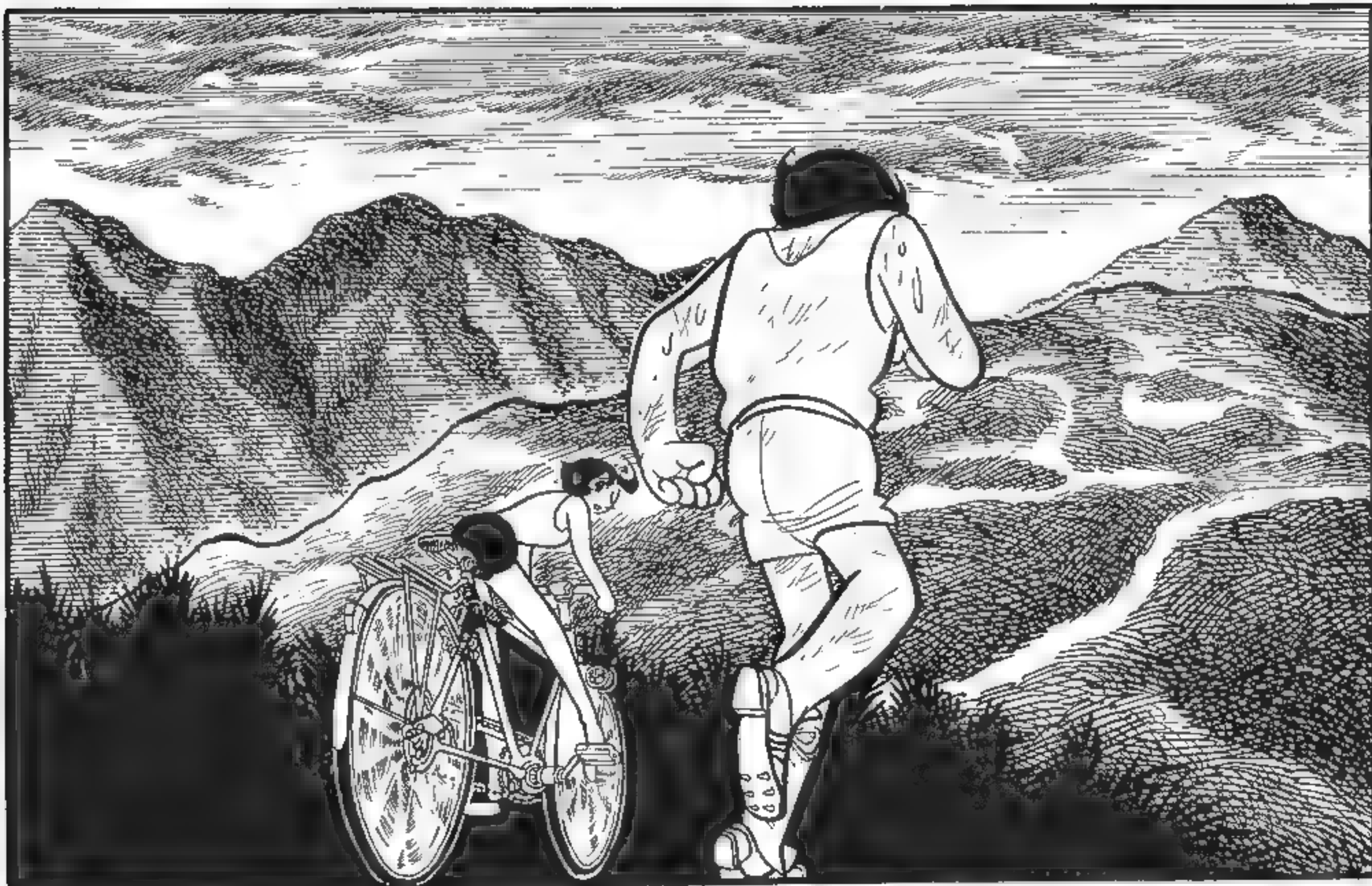


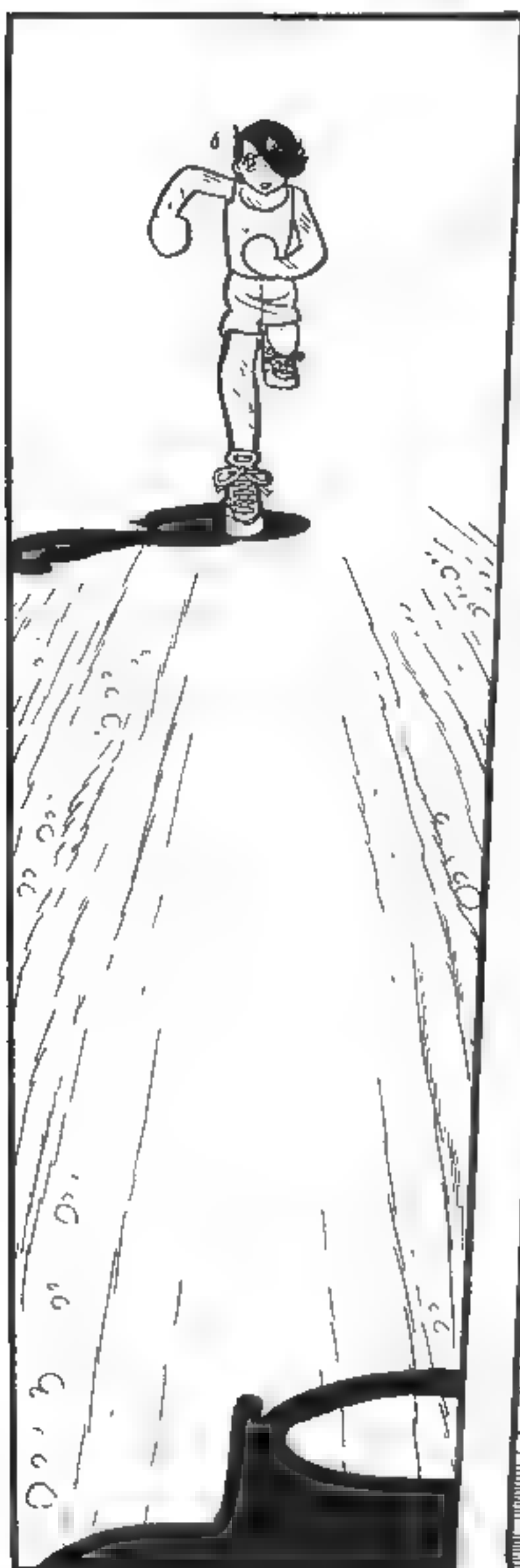




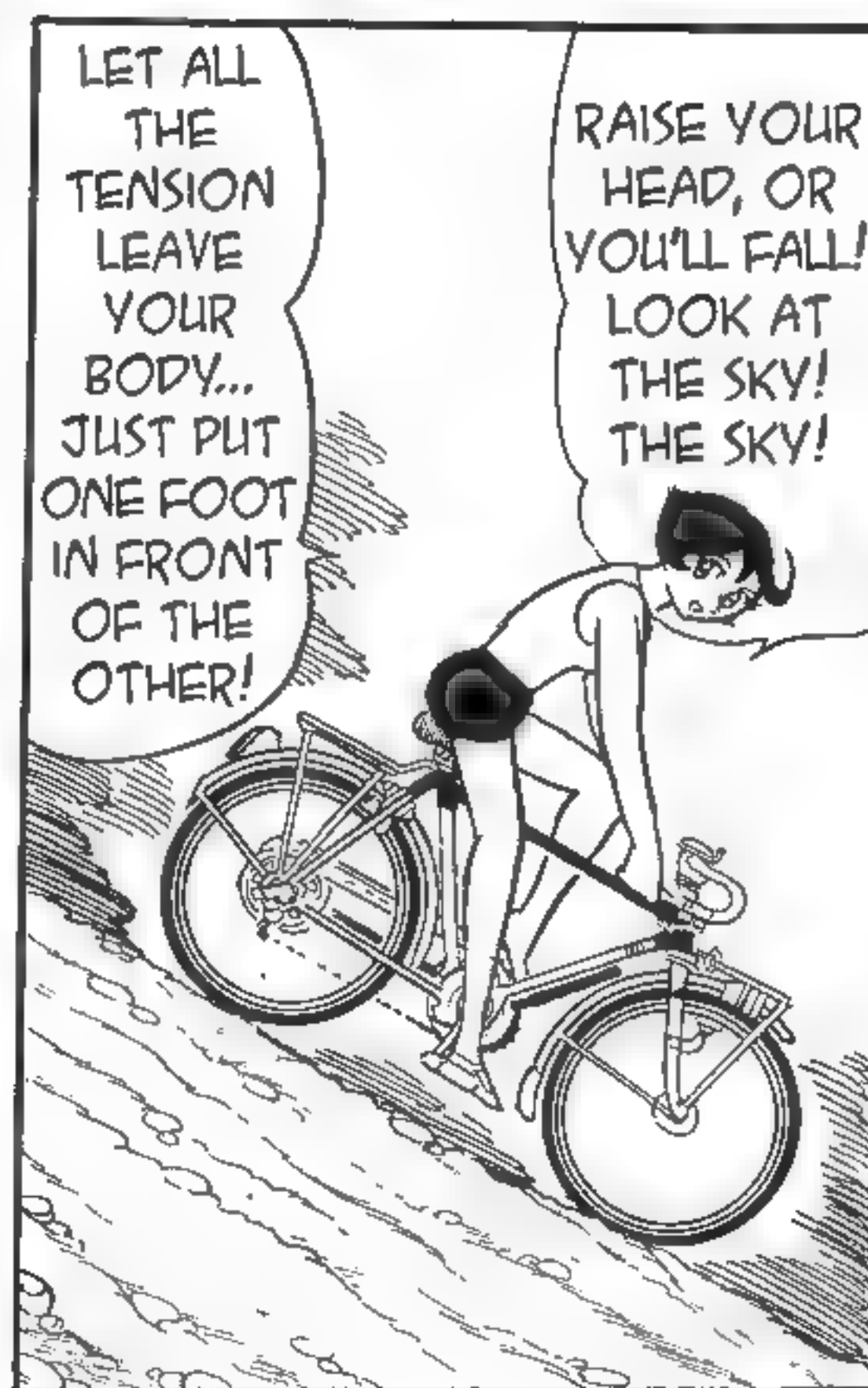
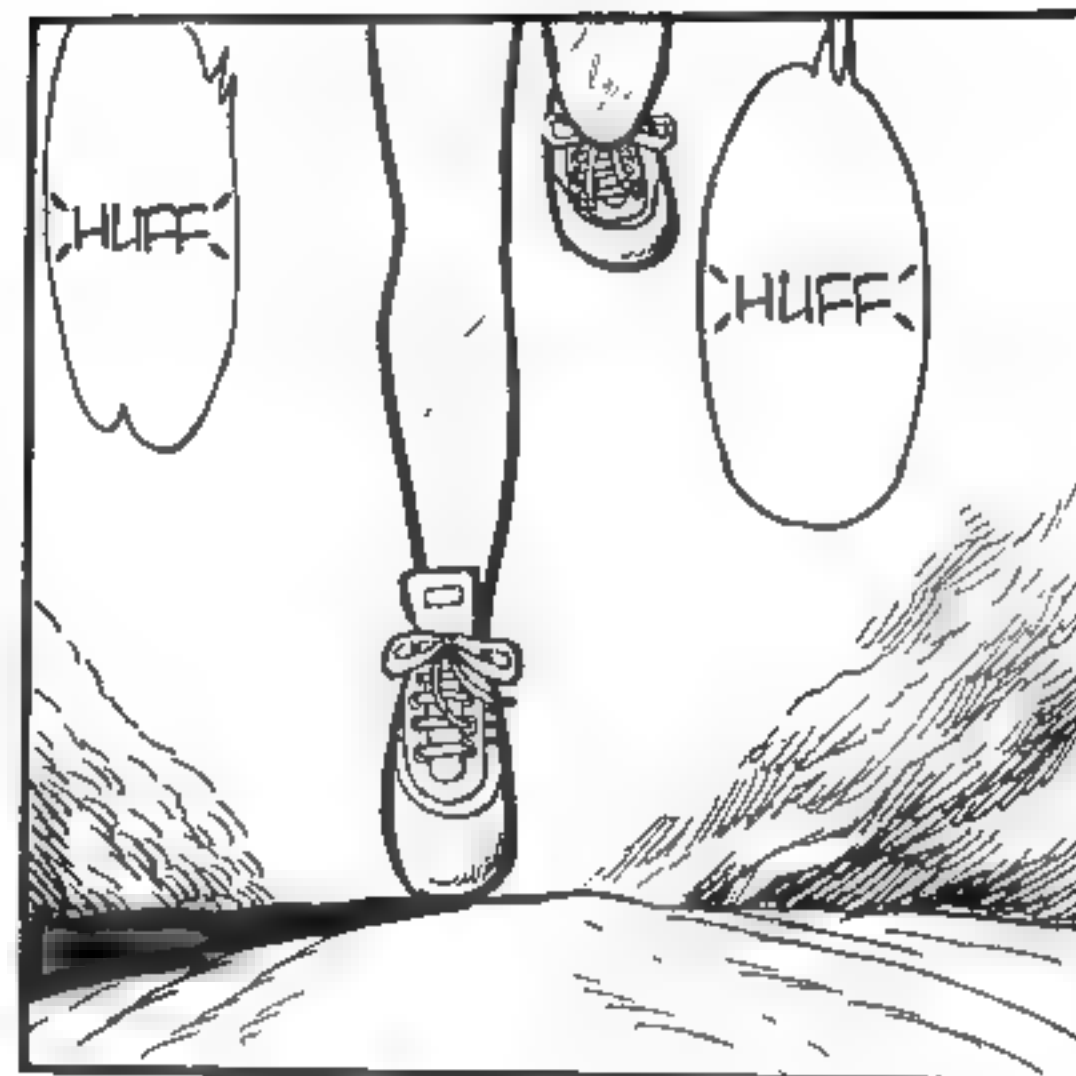


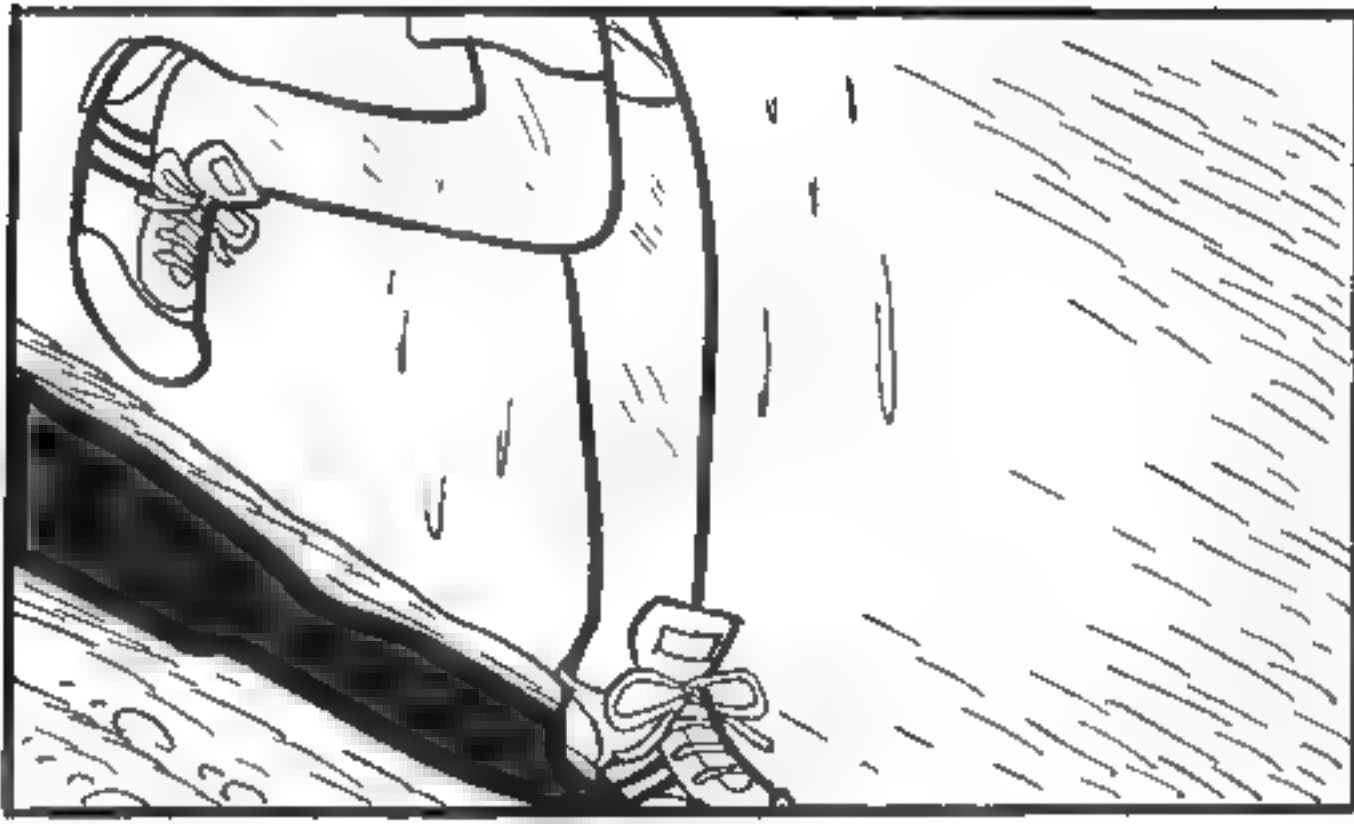


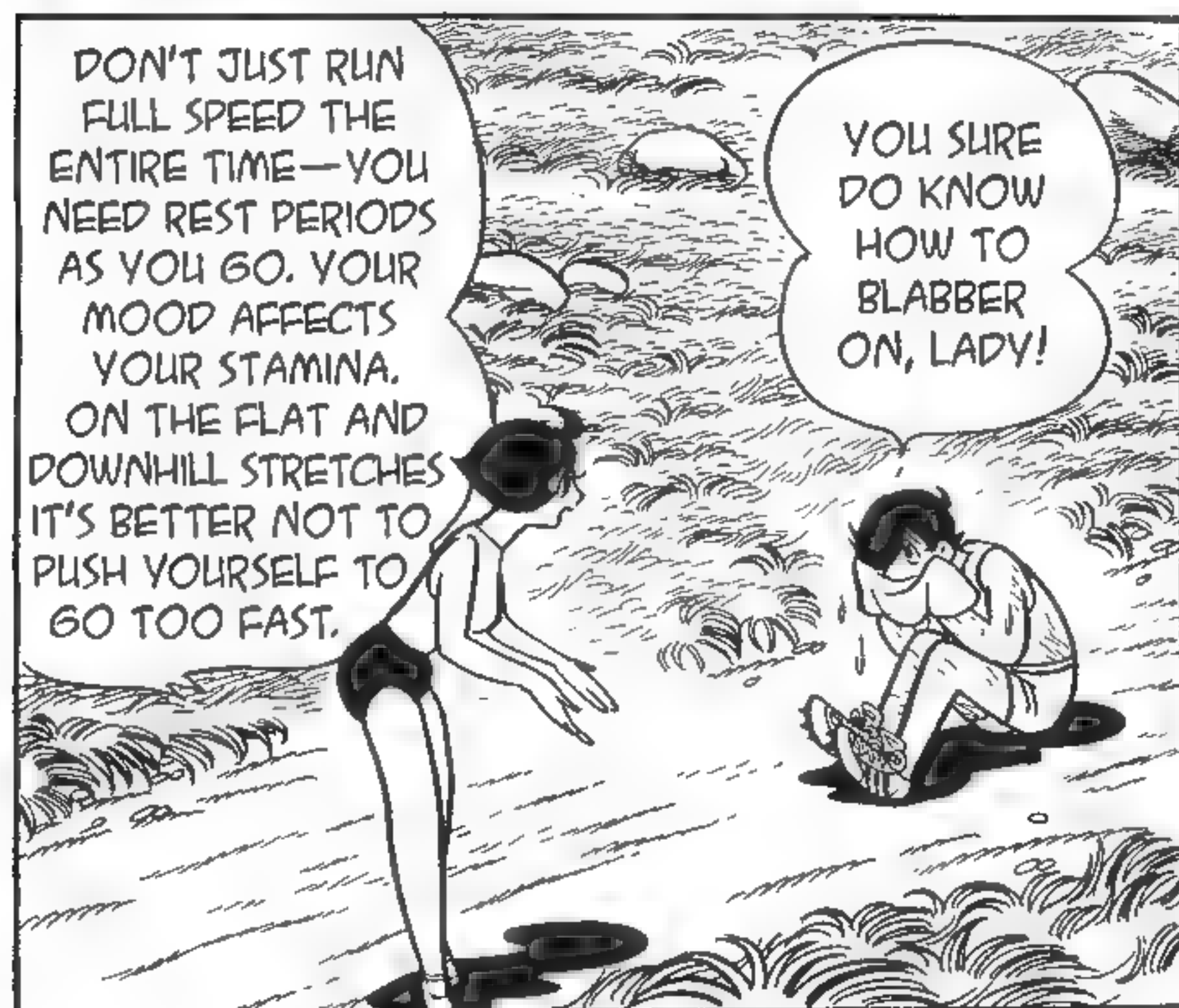
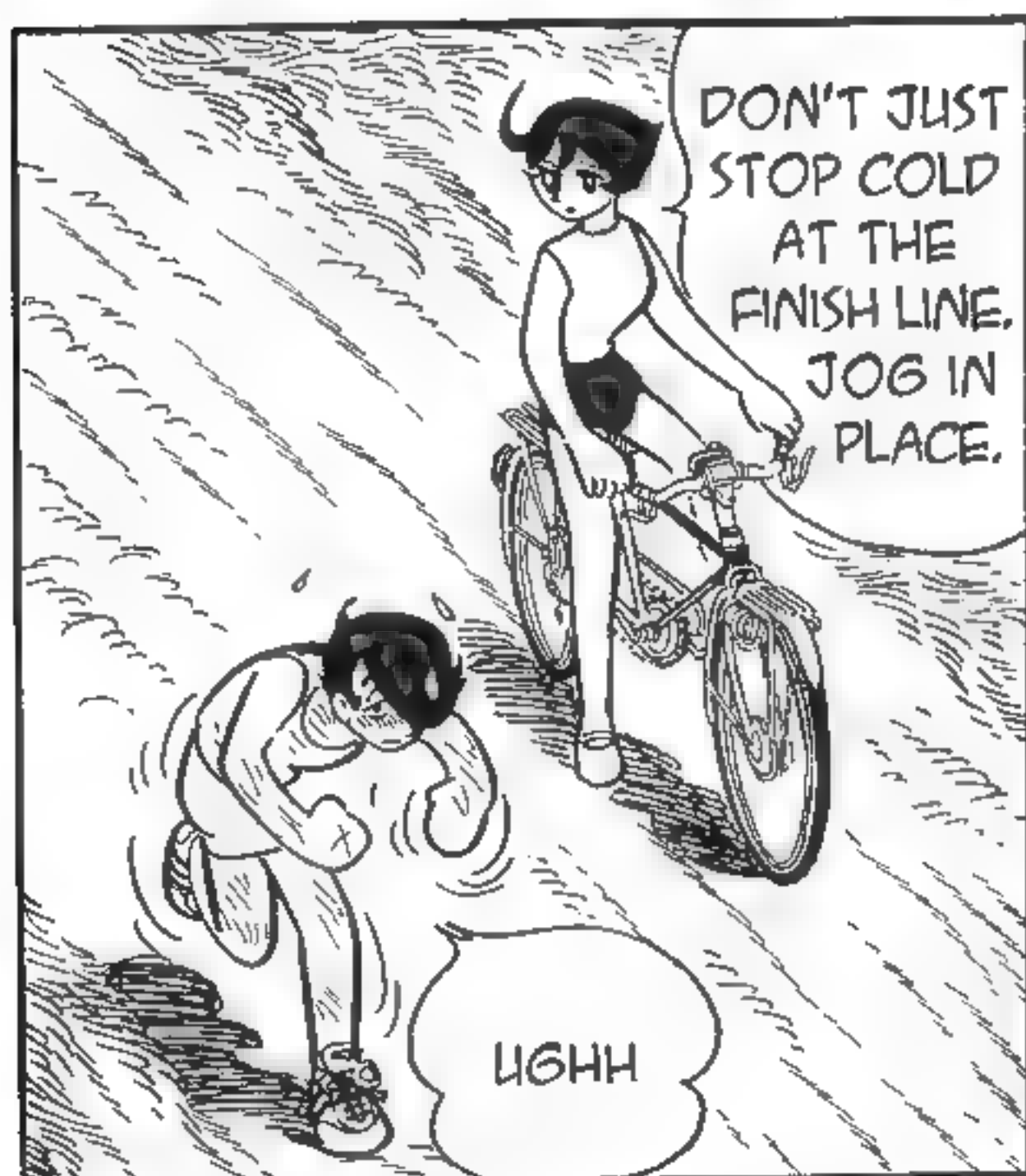
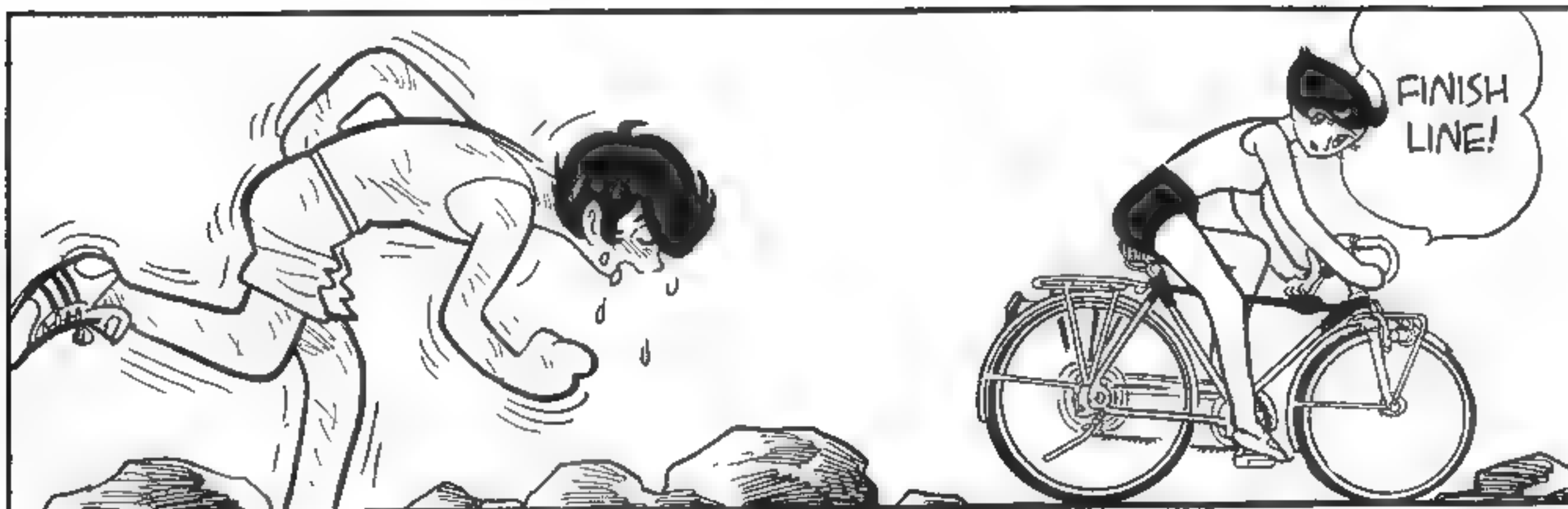


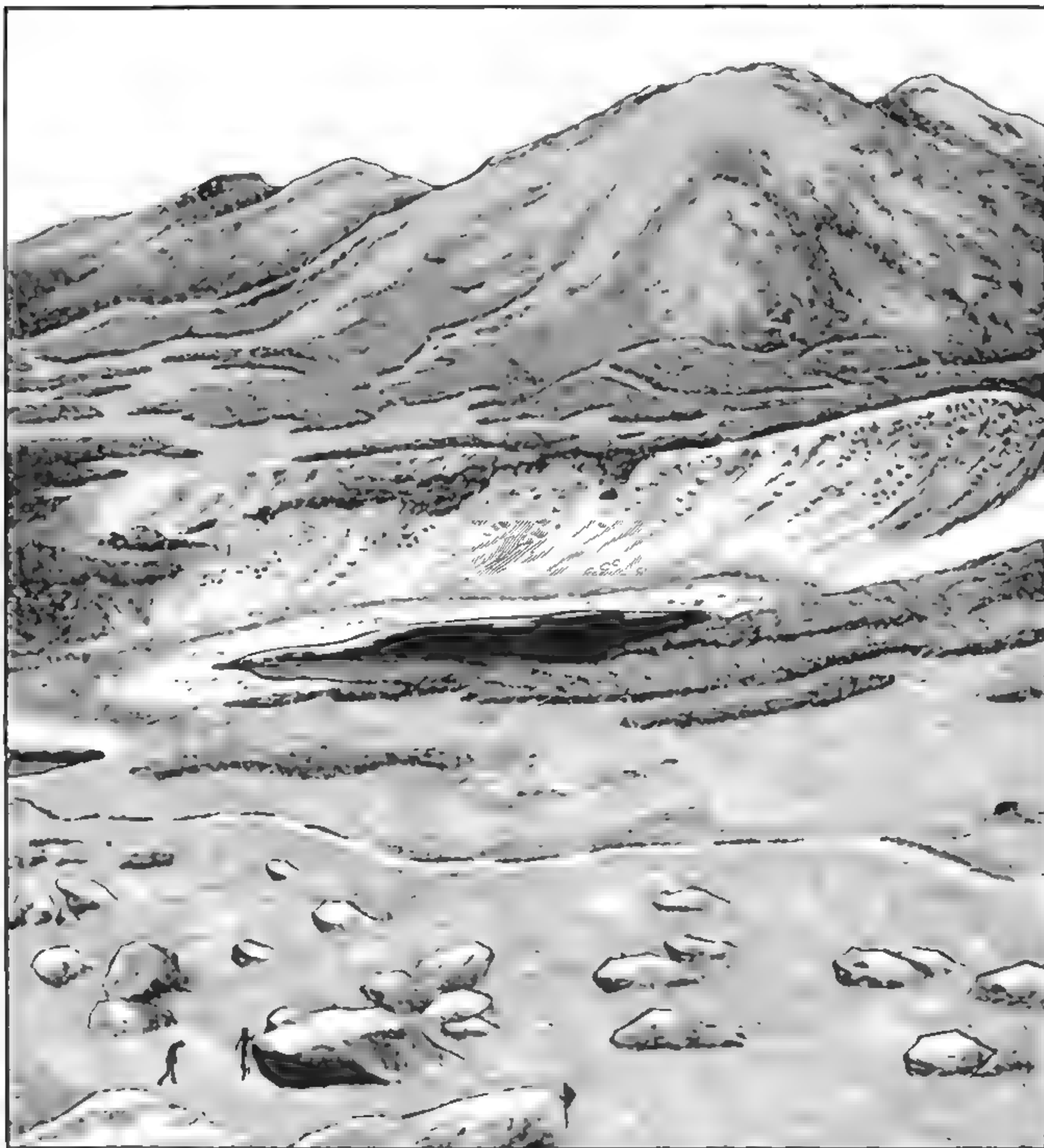


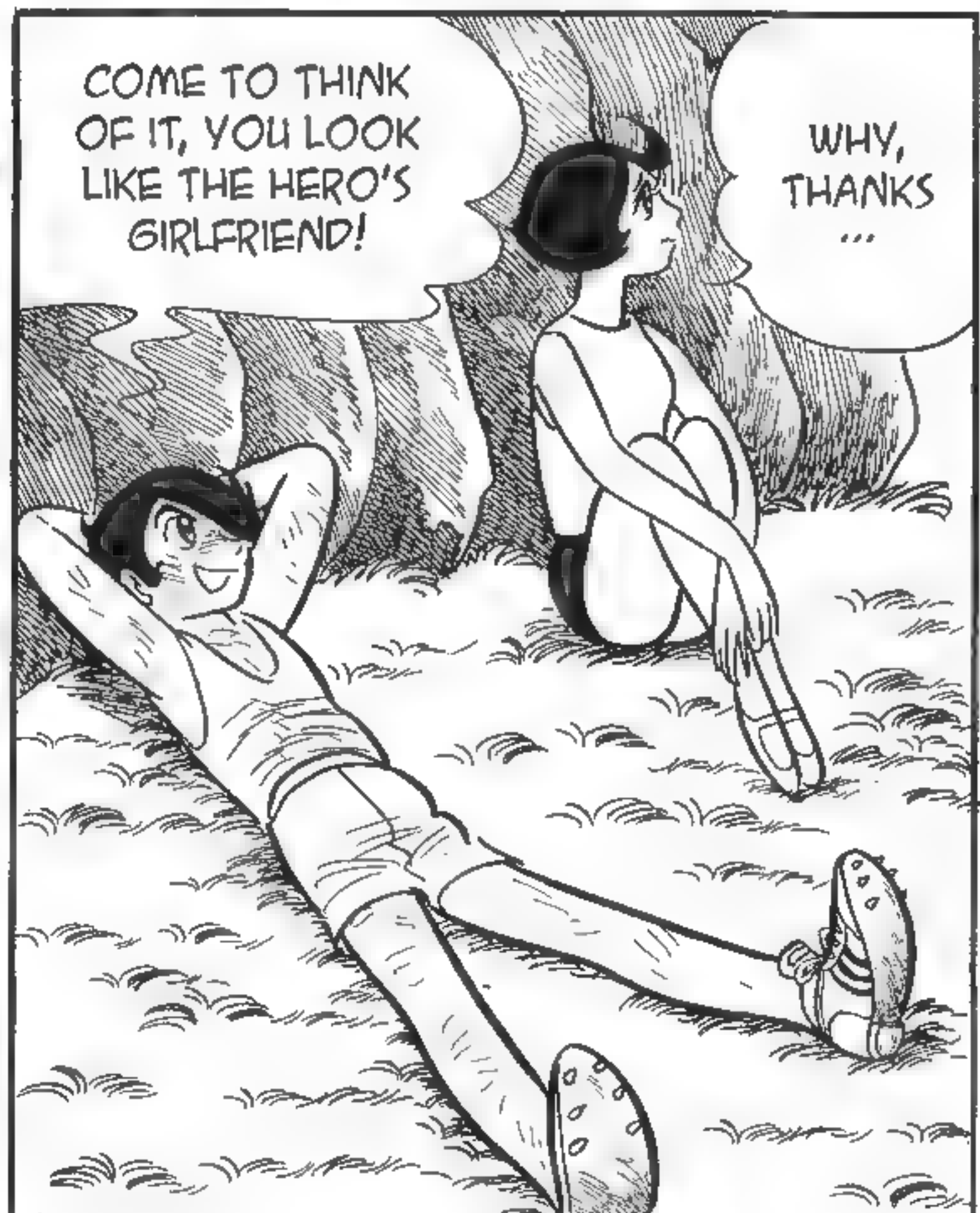
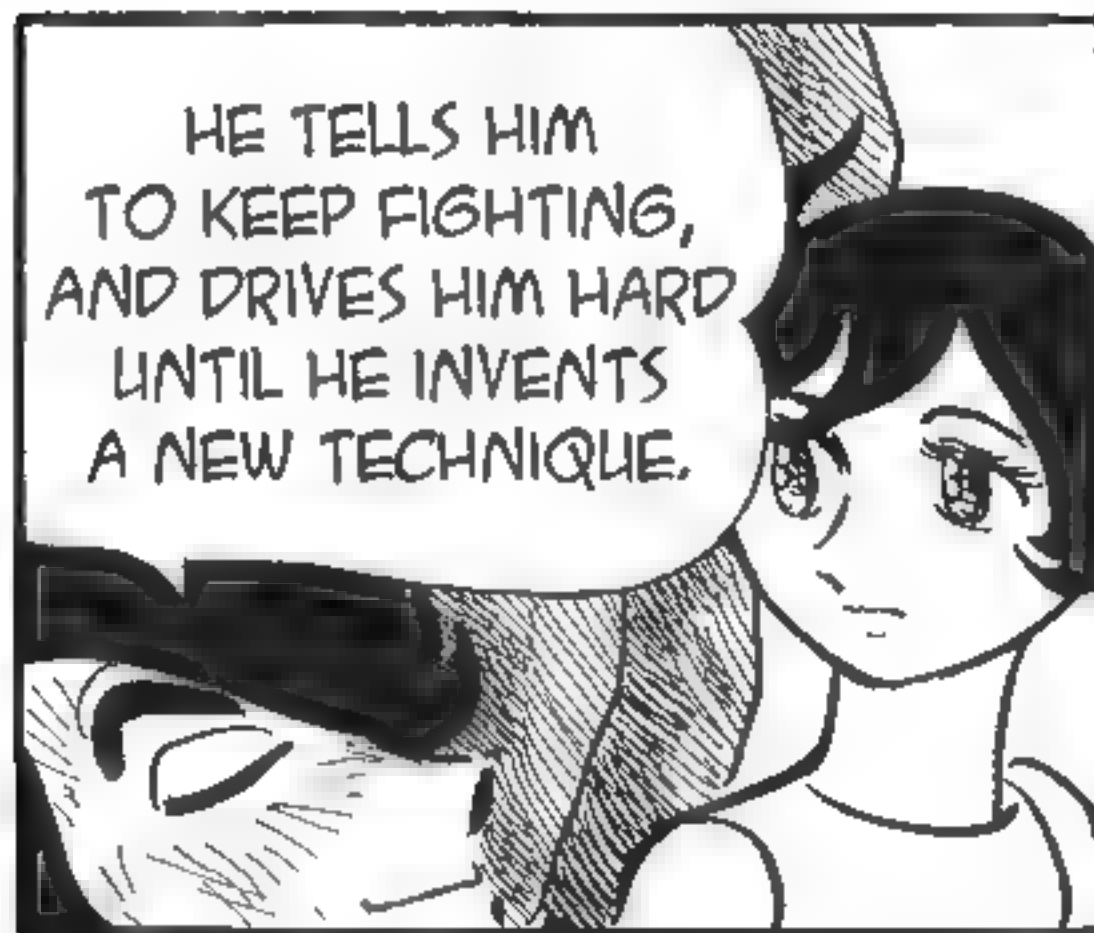




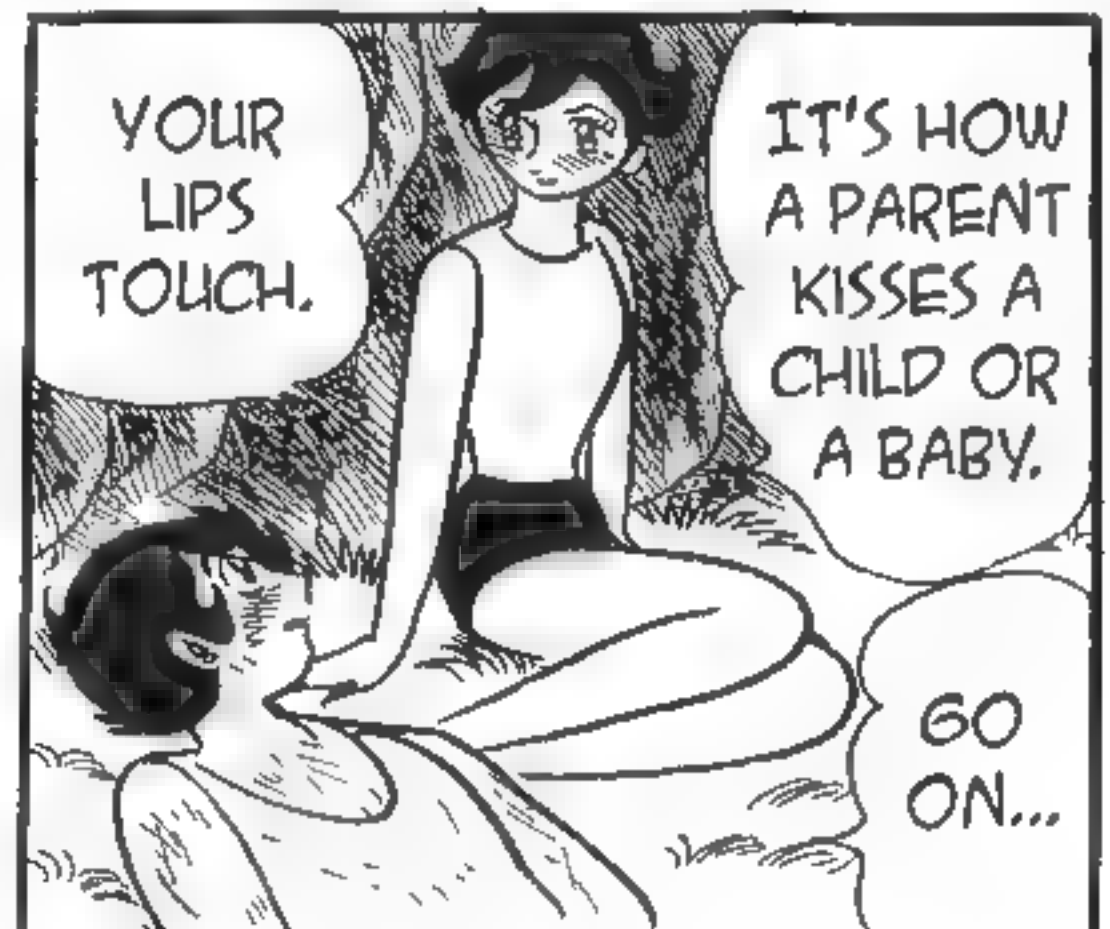




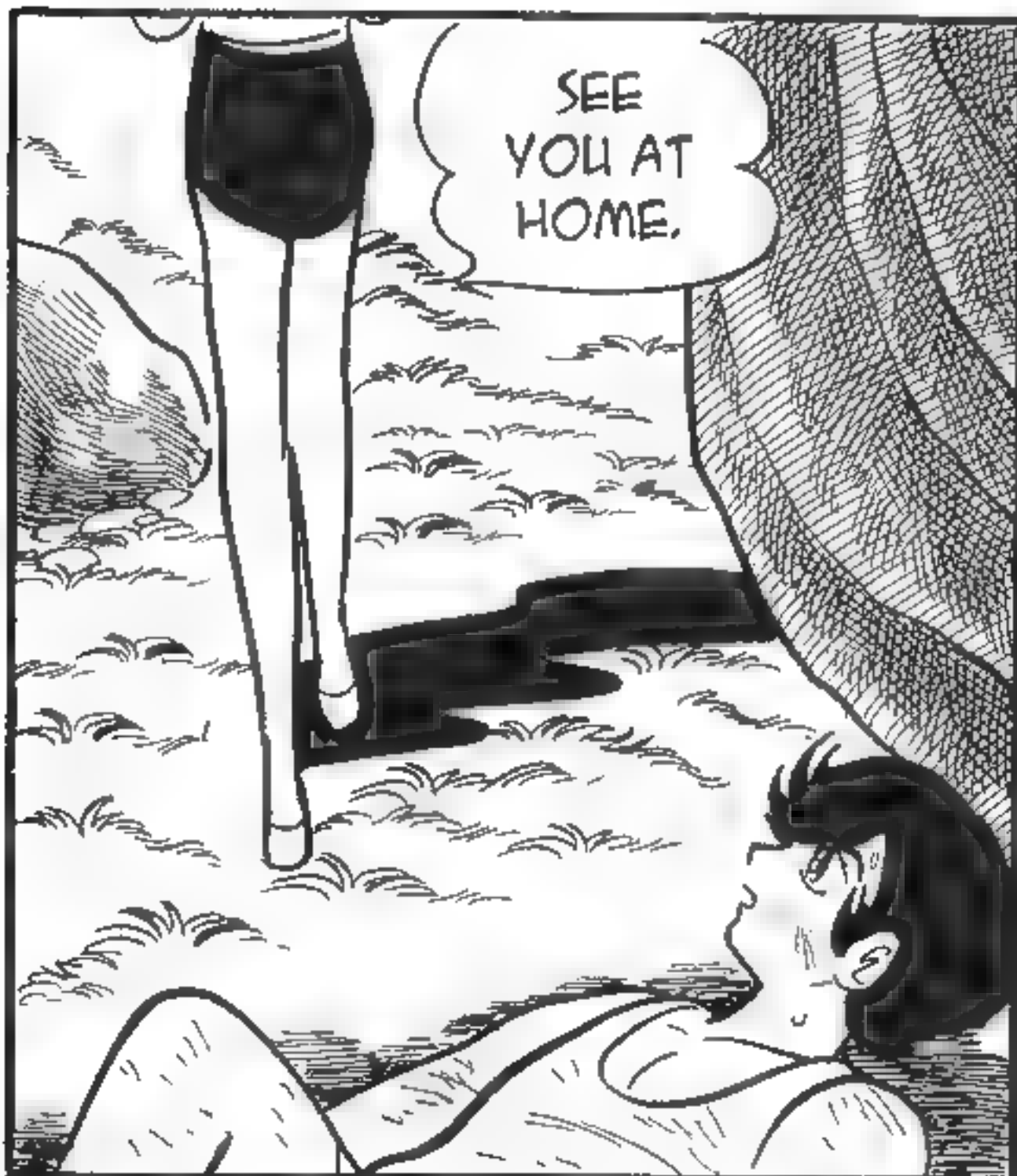




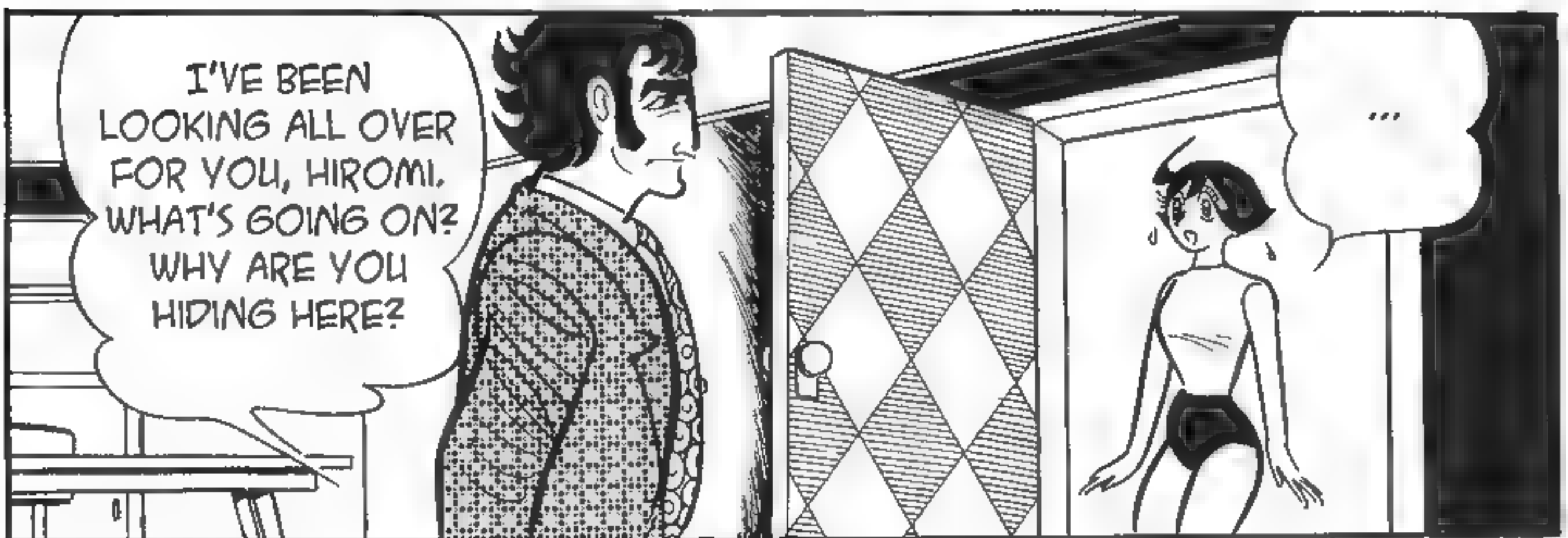




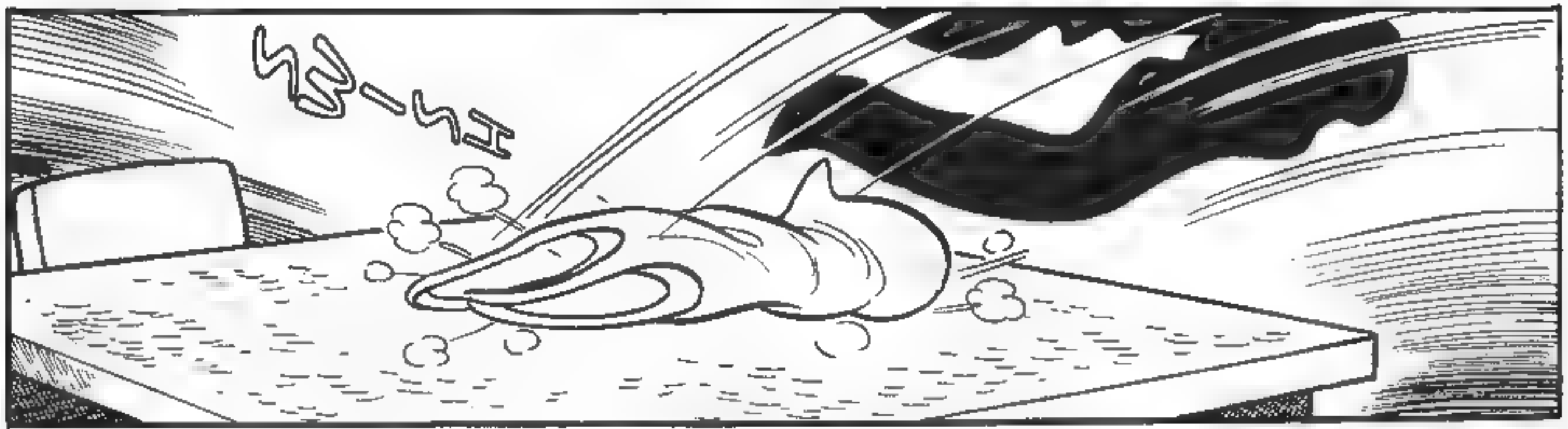




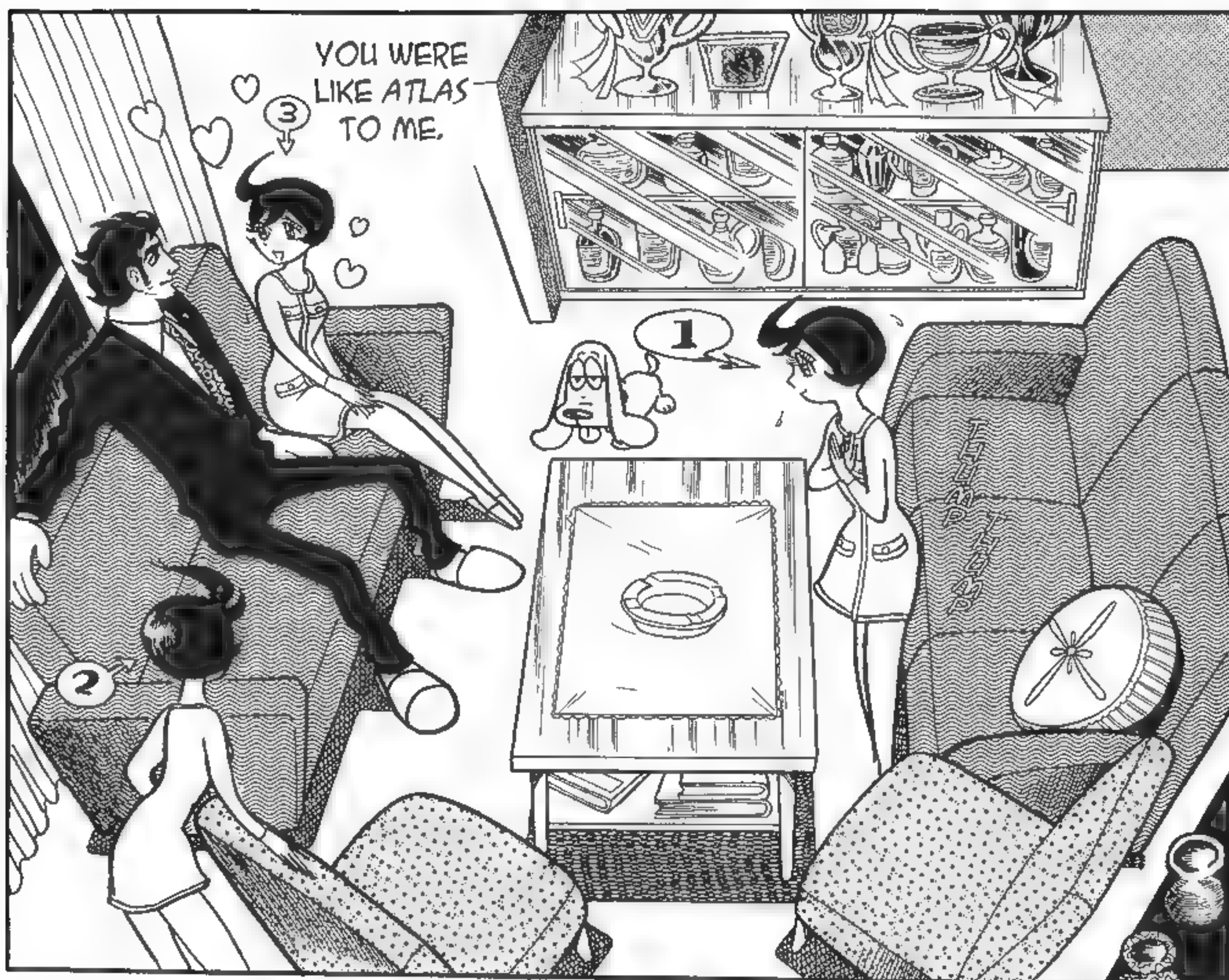


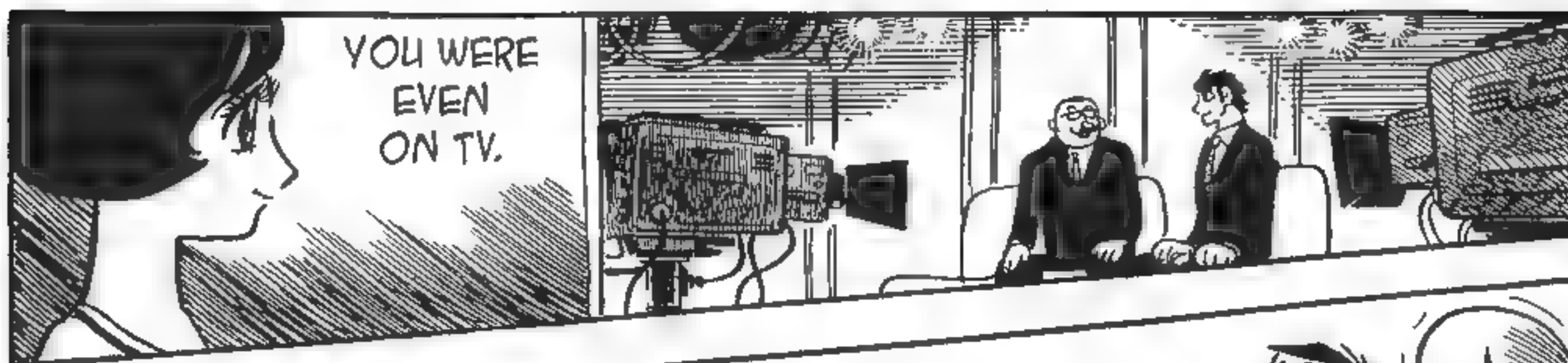












YOU WERE
EVEN
ON TV.



YOU TOOK ME
TO PARTIES
ATTENDED BY
CELEBRITIES.

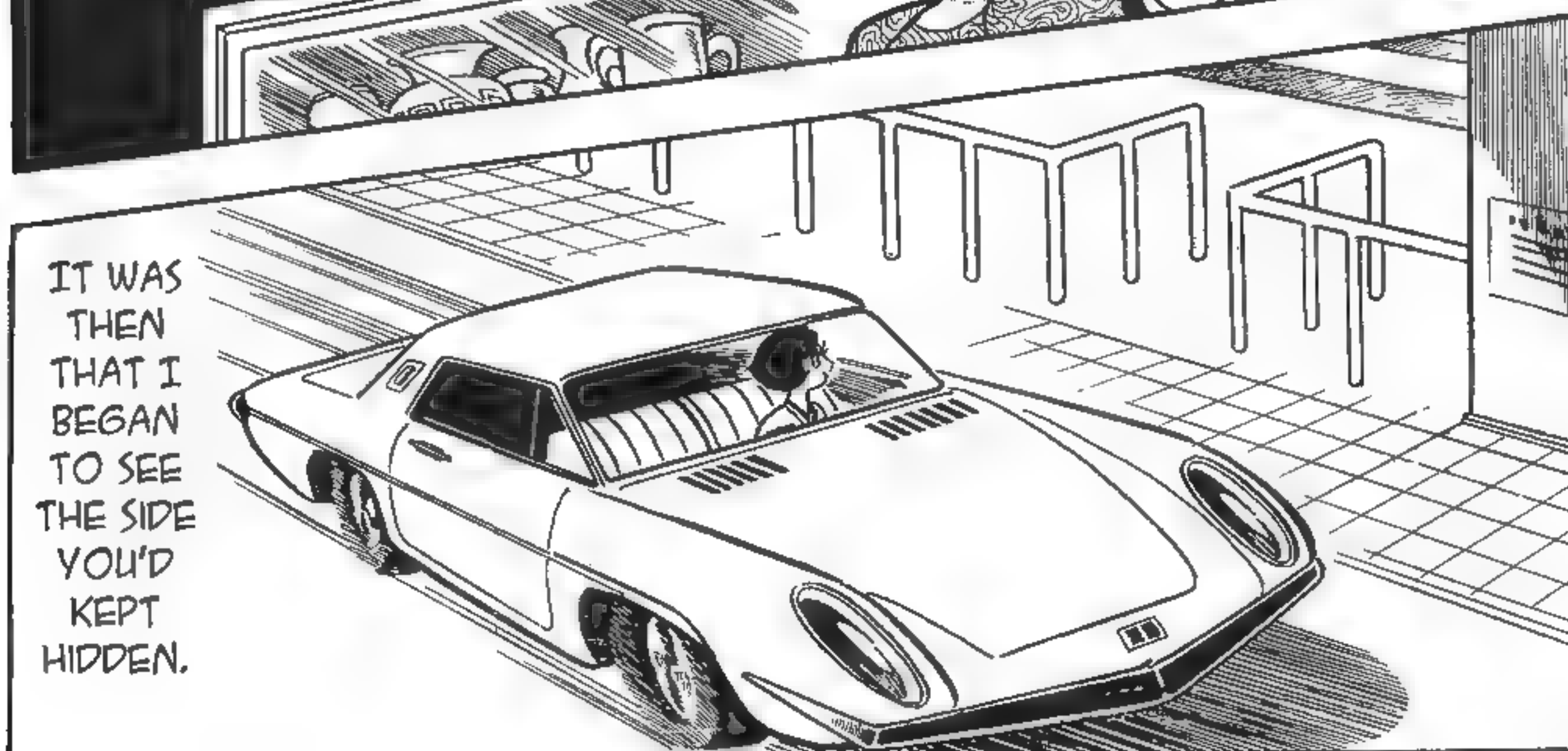


I FELT LIKE
IT WAS A DREAM
COME TRUE.



SO WHEN
MY FATHER
TOLD ME
THAT YOU'D
ASKED FOR
MY HAND,

WE
IMMEDIATELY
GOT
ENGAGED.



IT WAS
THEN
THAT I
BEGAN
TO SEE
THE SIDE
YOU'D
KEPT
HIDDEN.

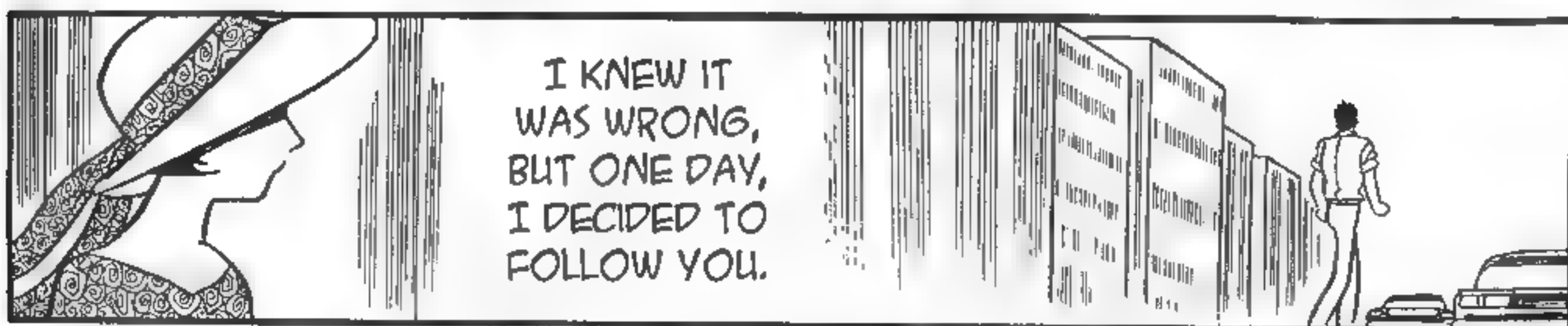
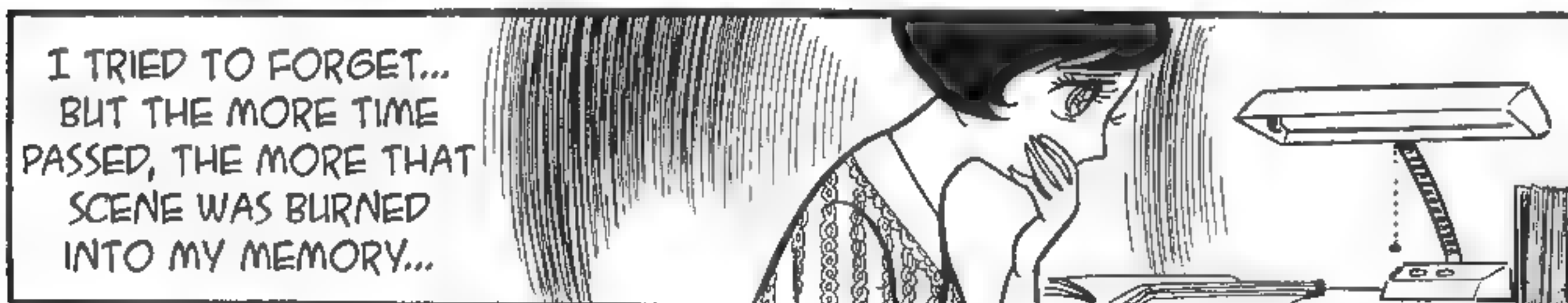
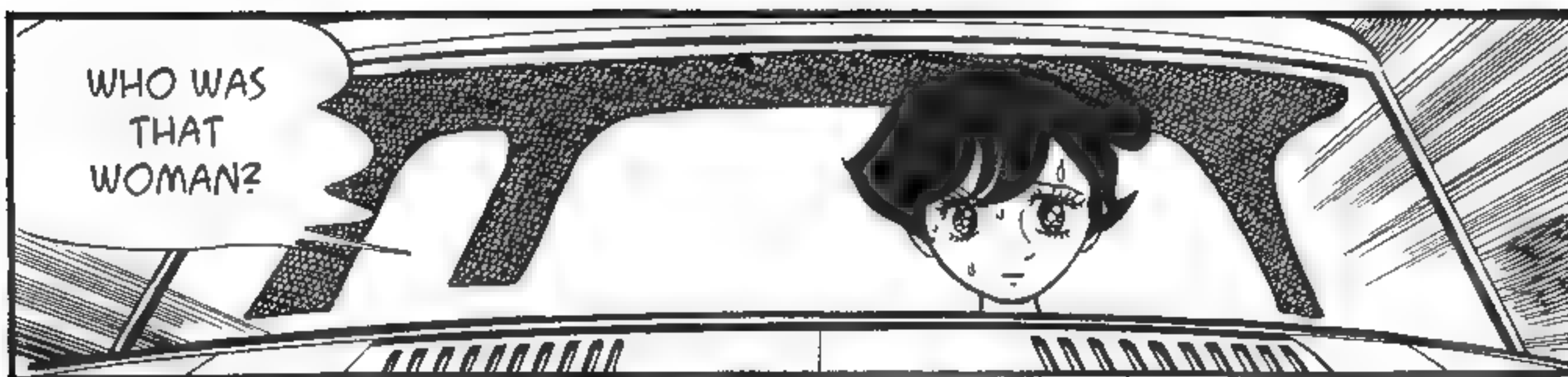


I SAW
SOMETHING
THERE
THAT I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE.

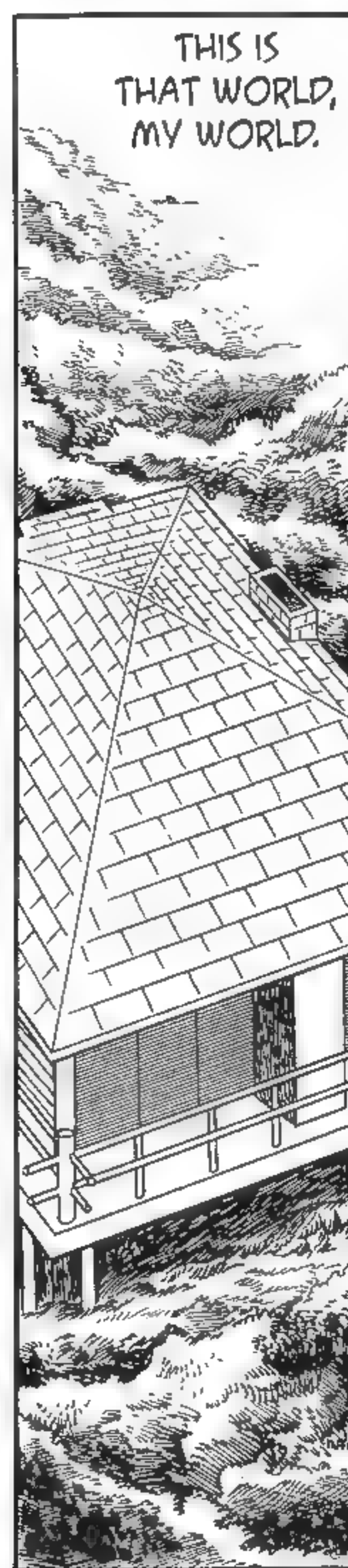
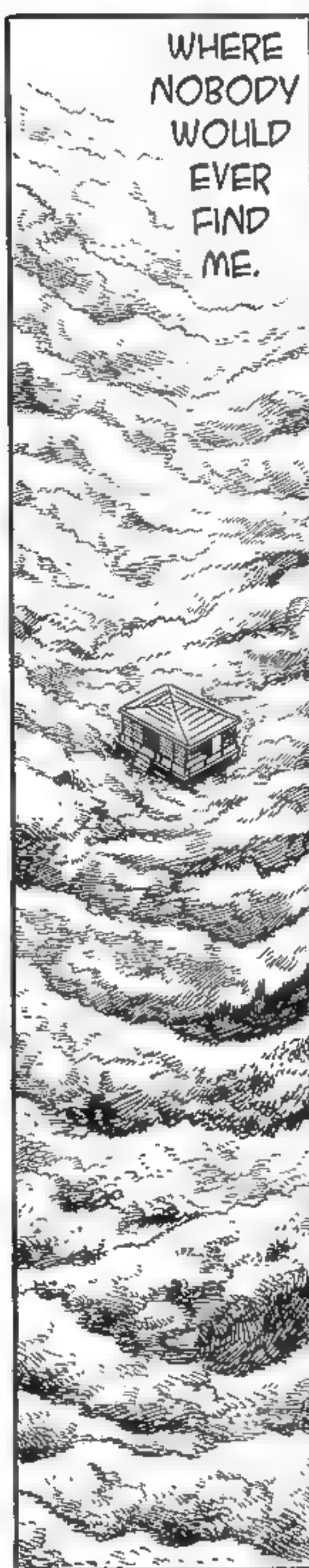
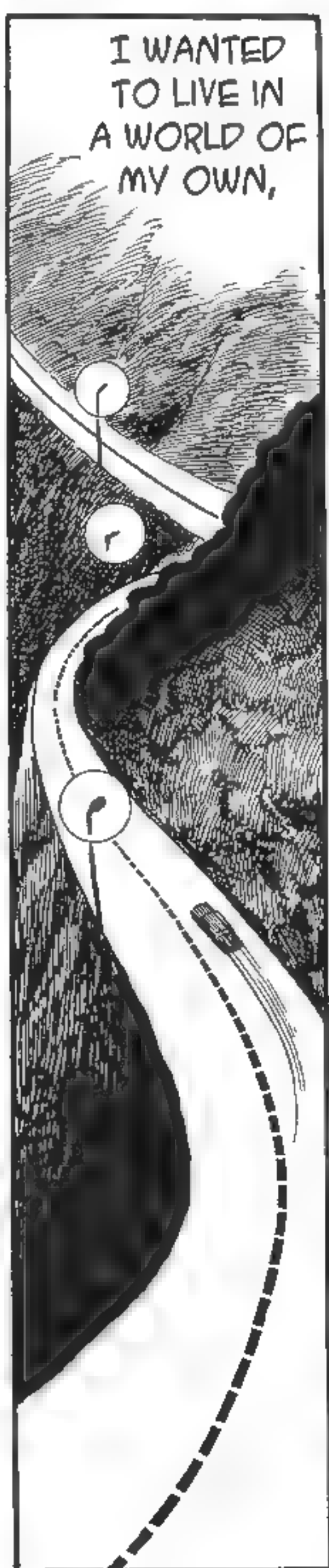


I WENT
ONE DAY
TO THE
TRAINING
ARENA TO
BRING YOU
A MESSAGE
FROM MY
FATHER.

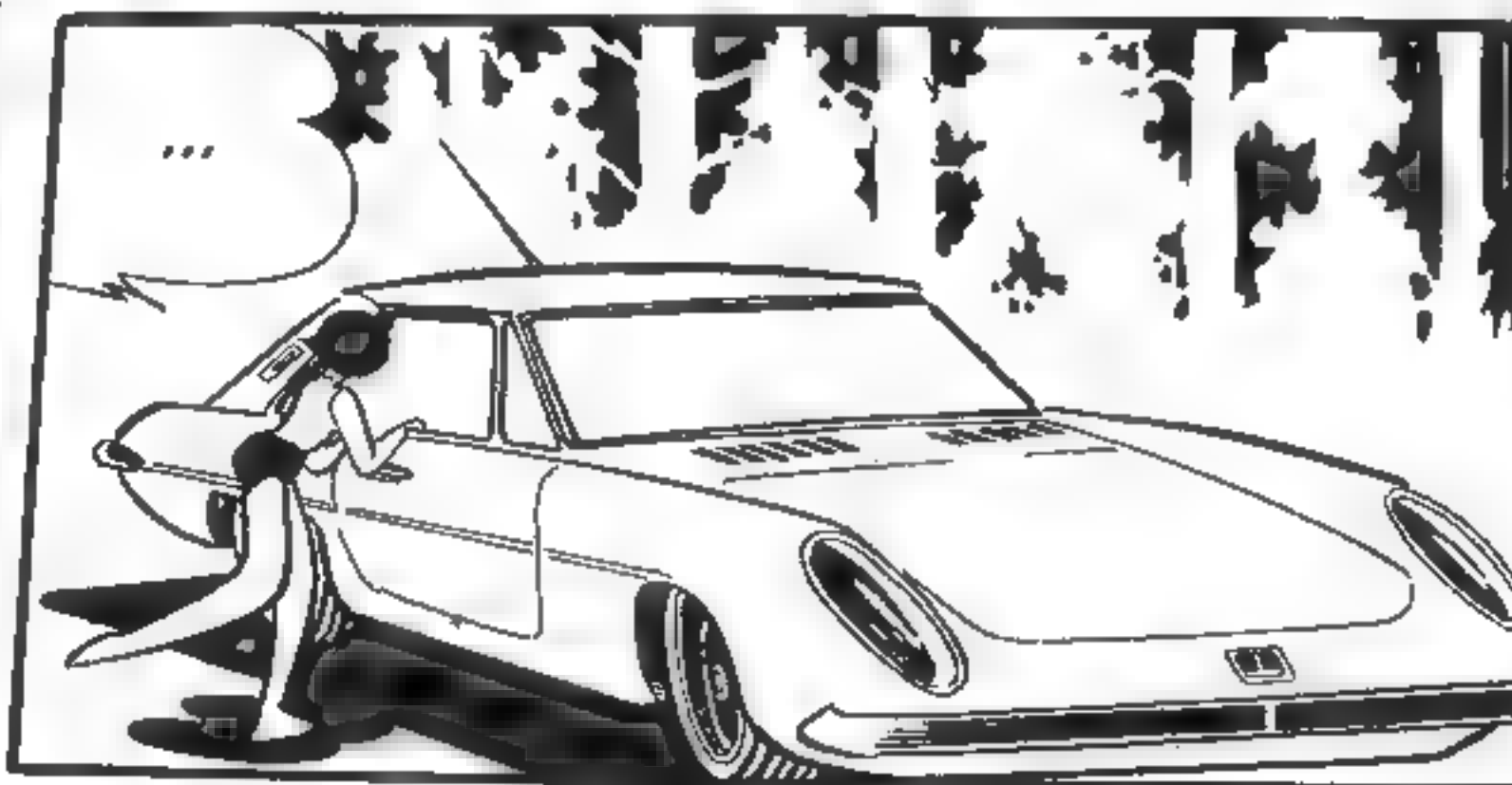
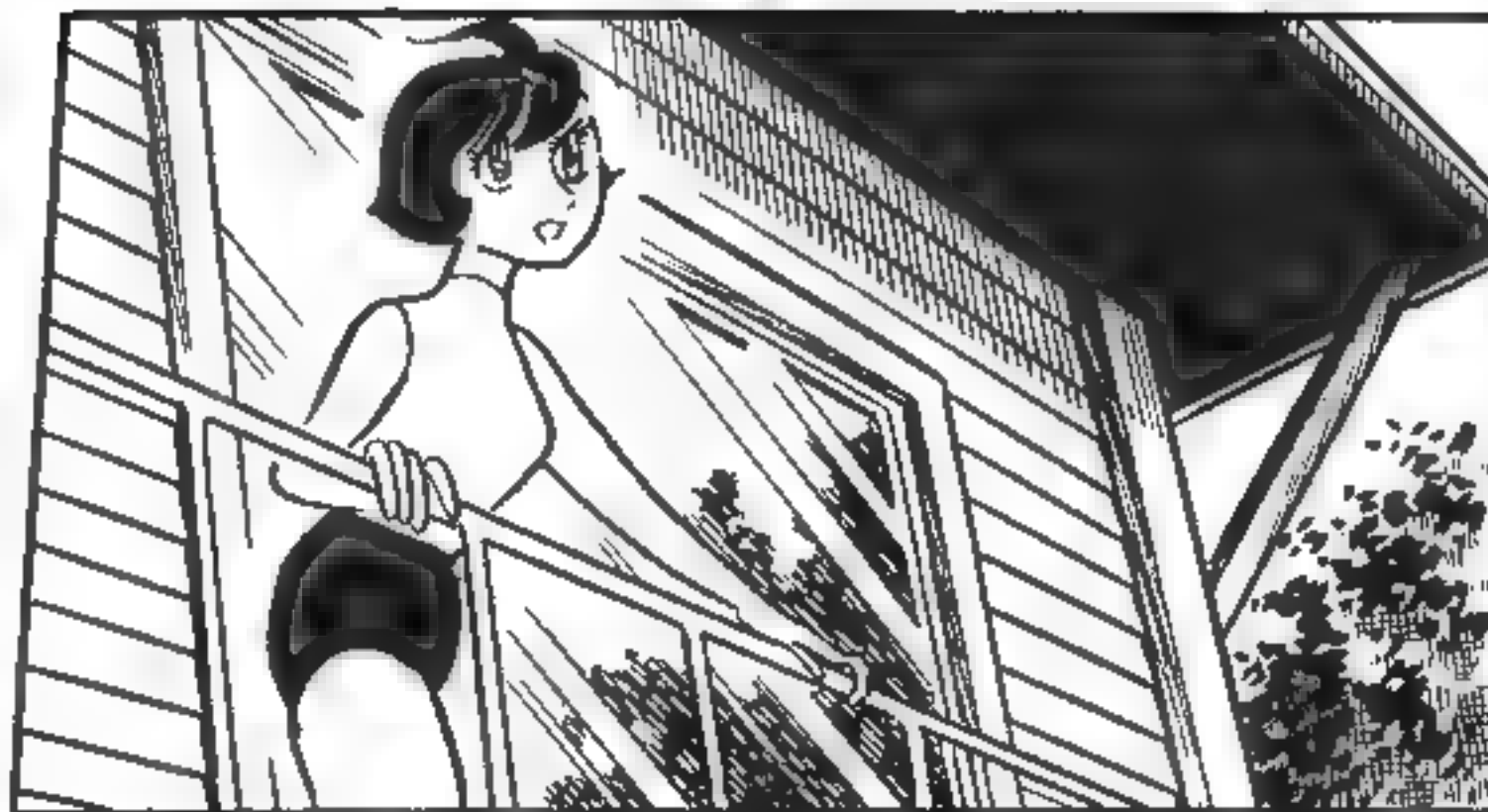






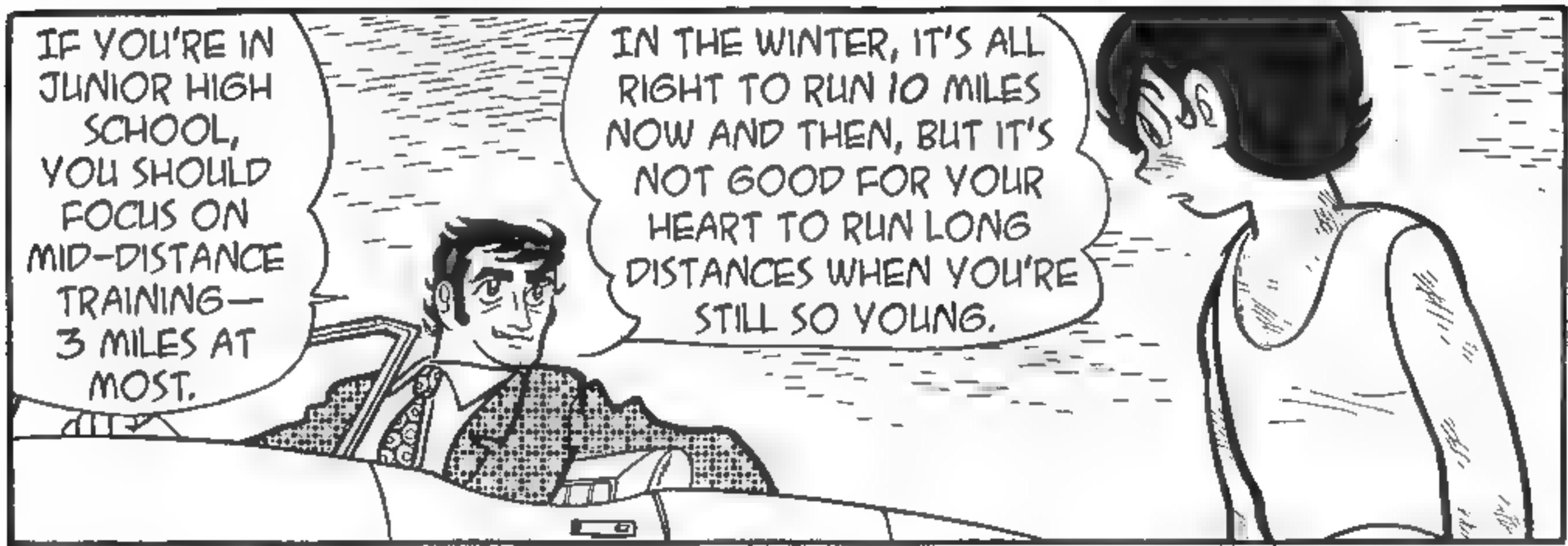




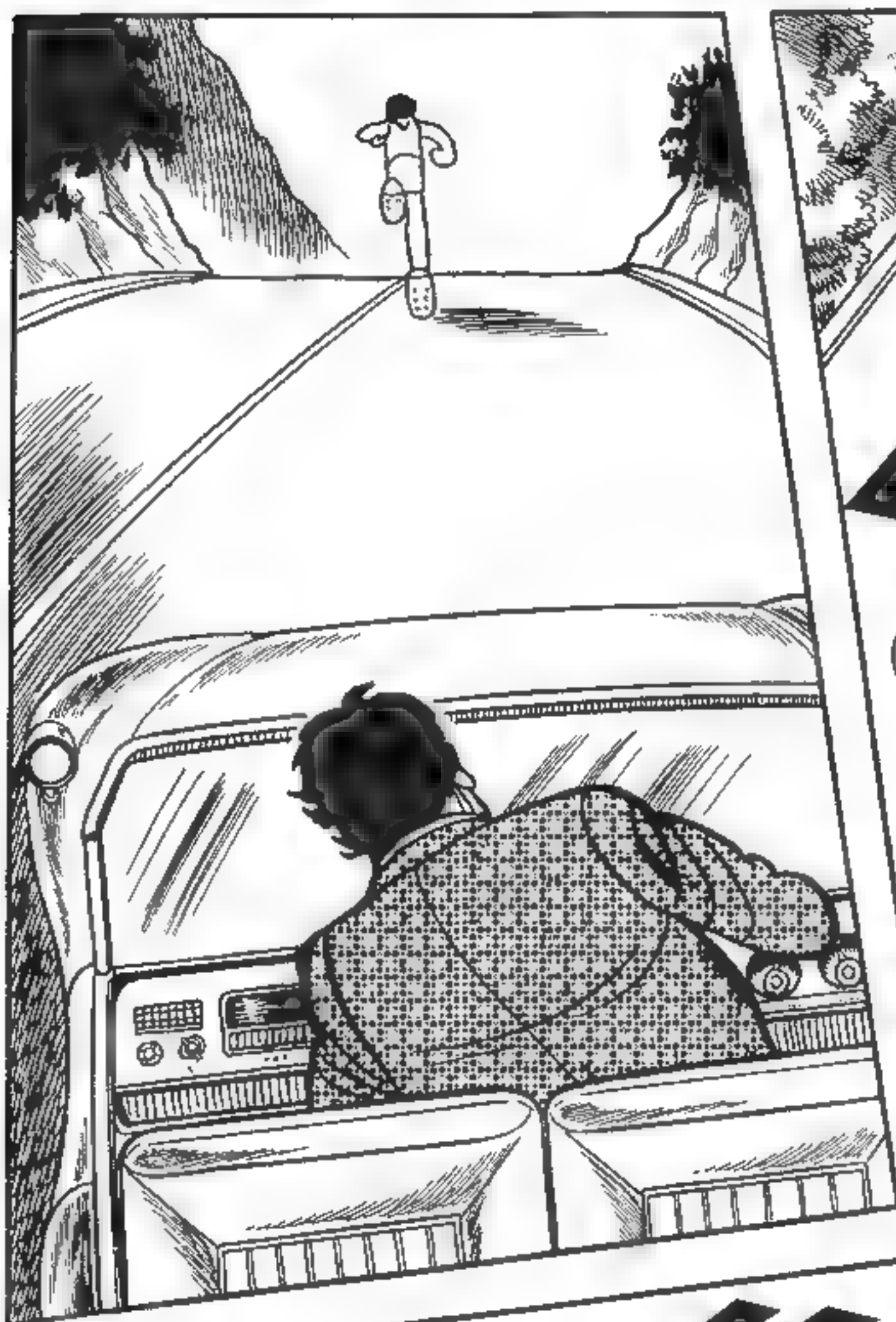


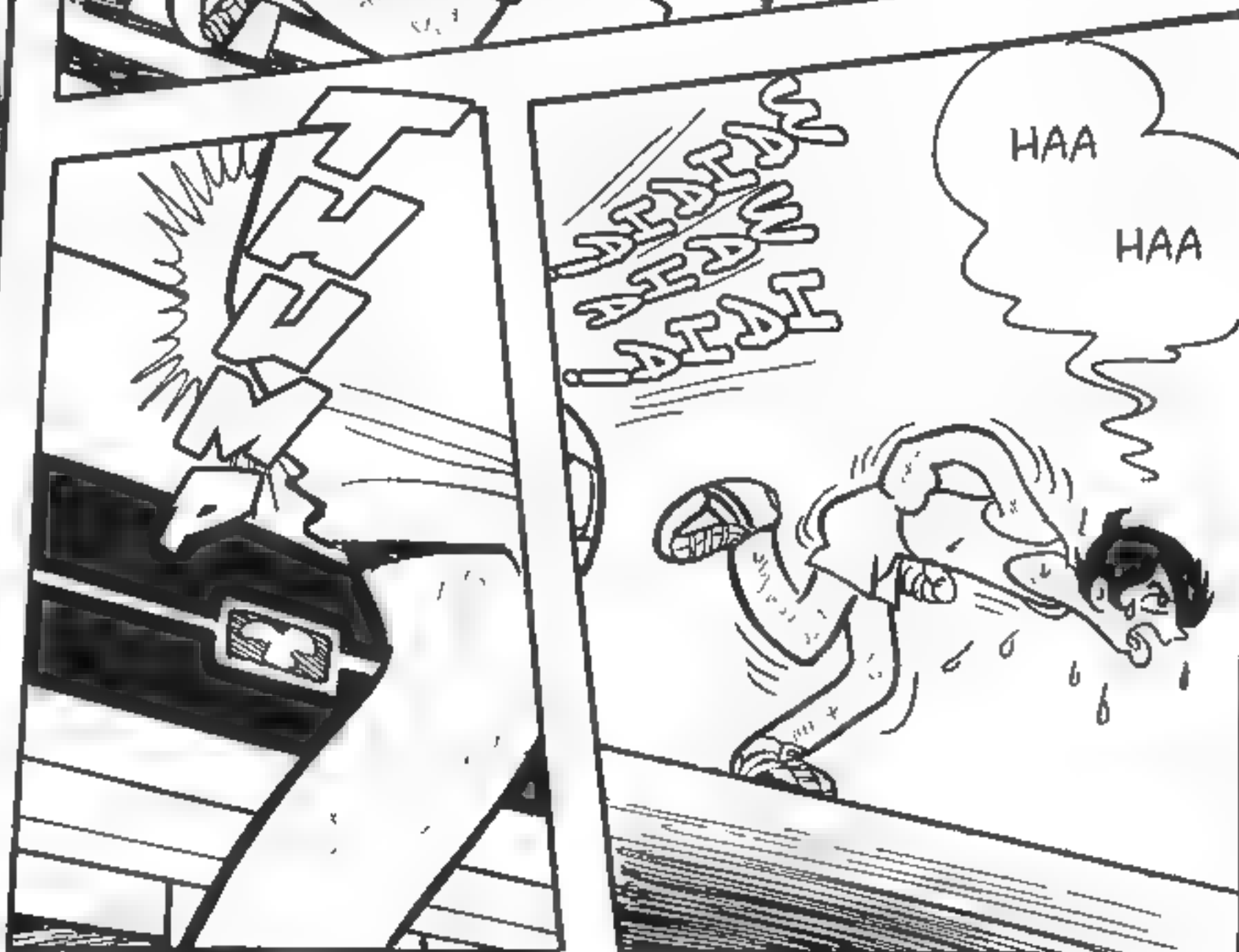
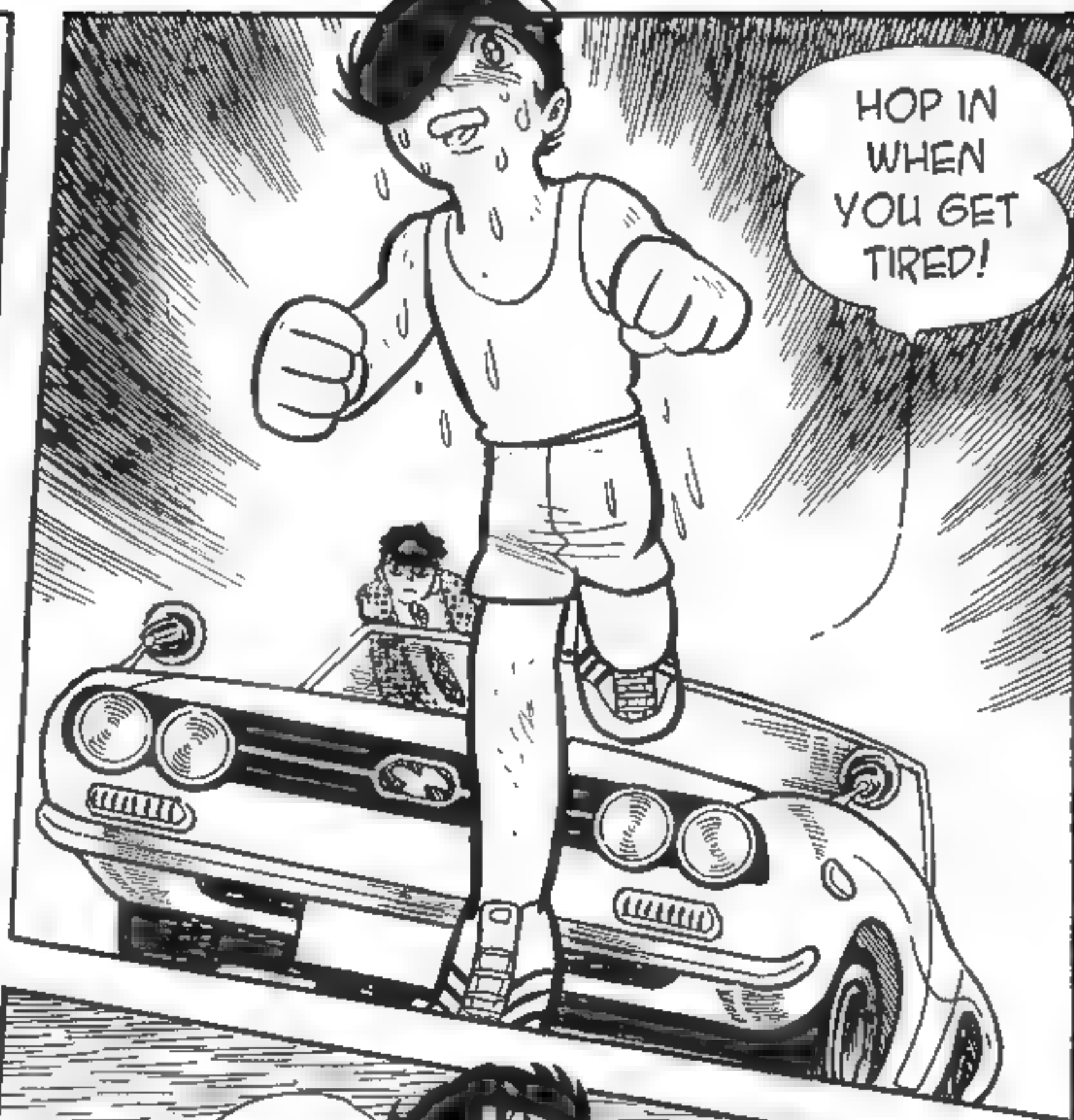


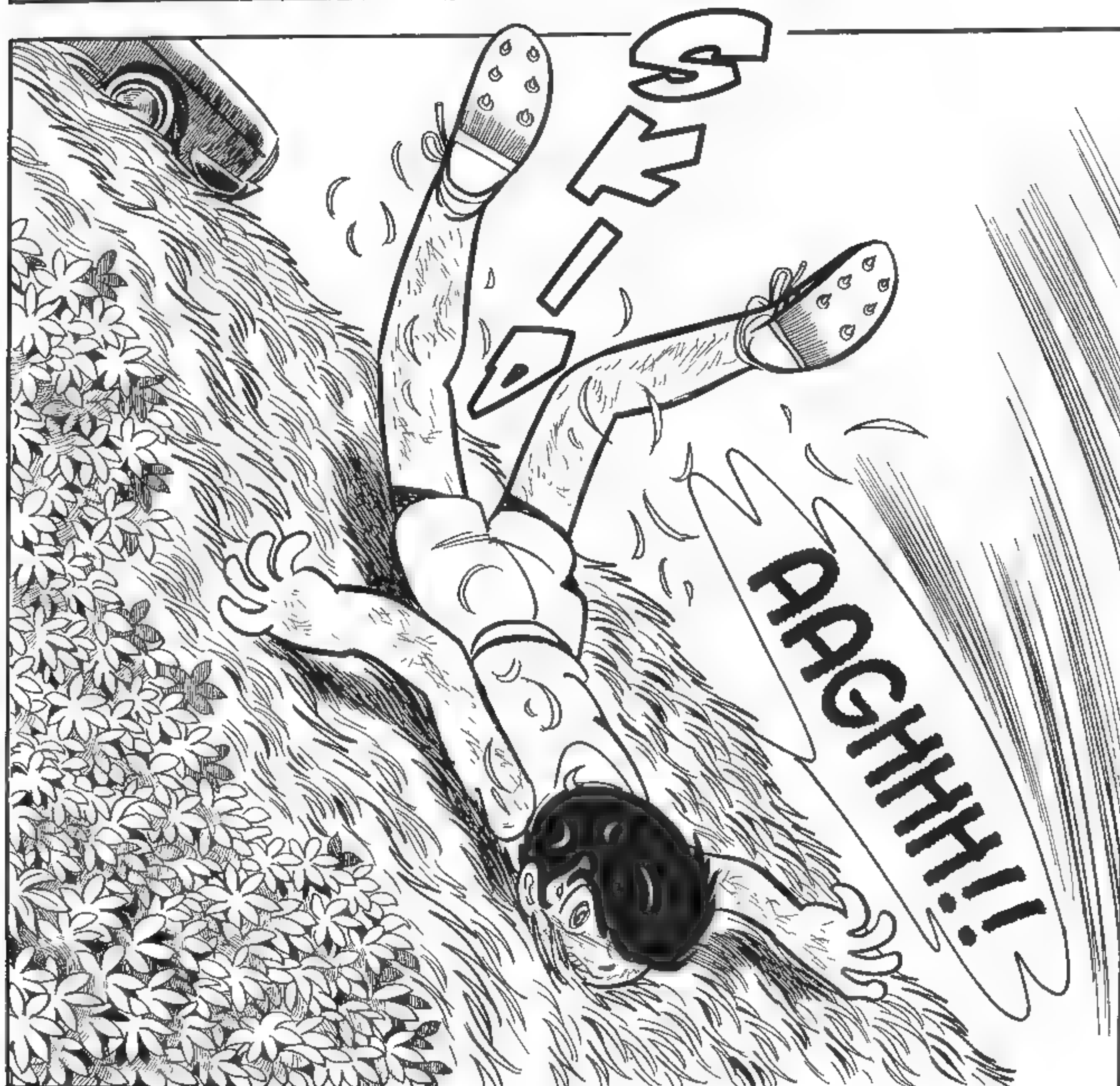
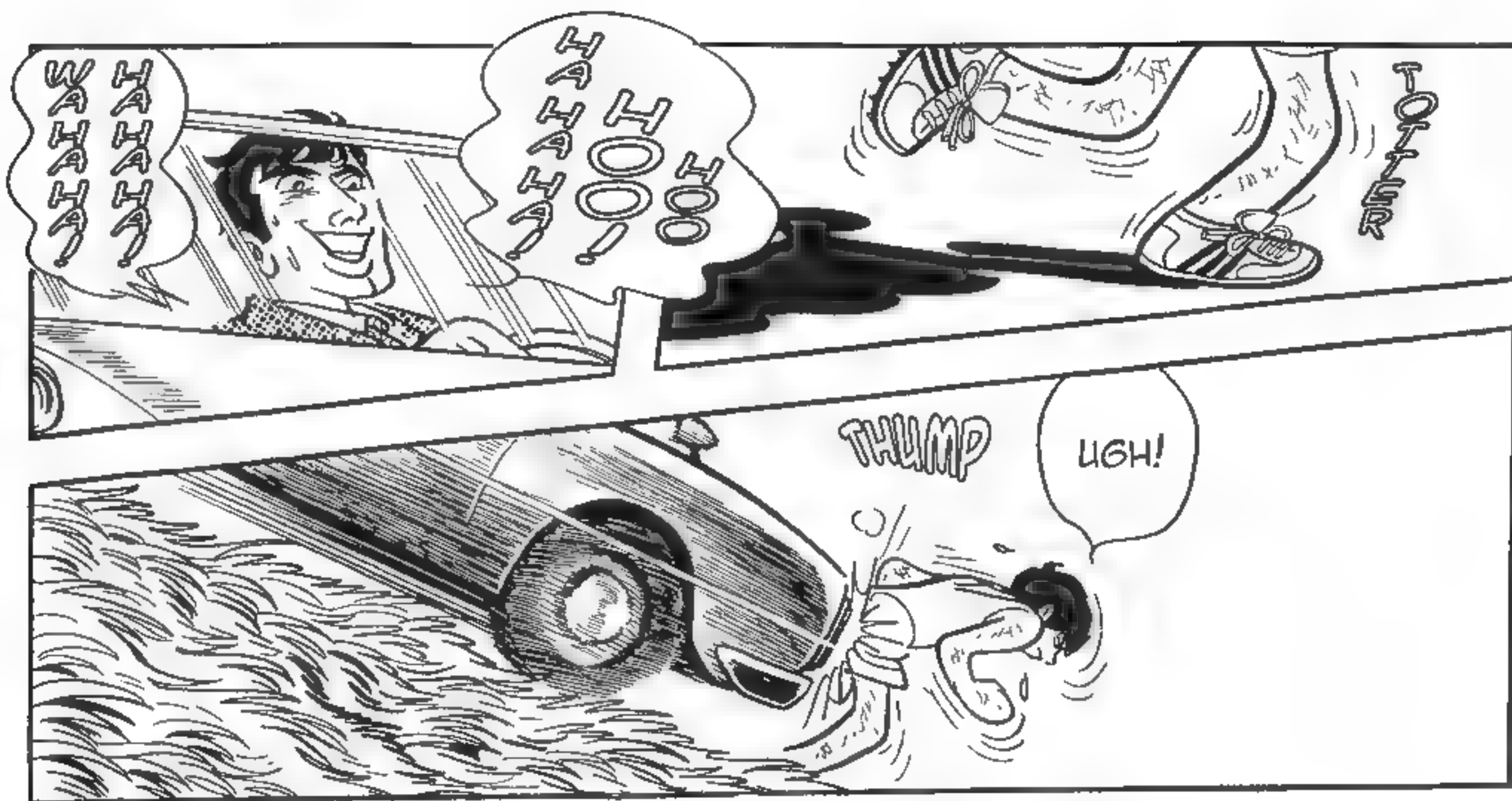


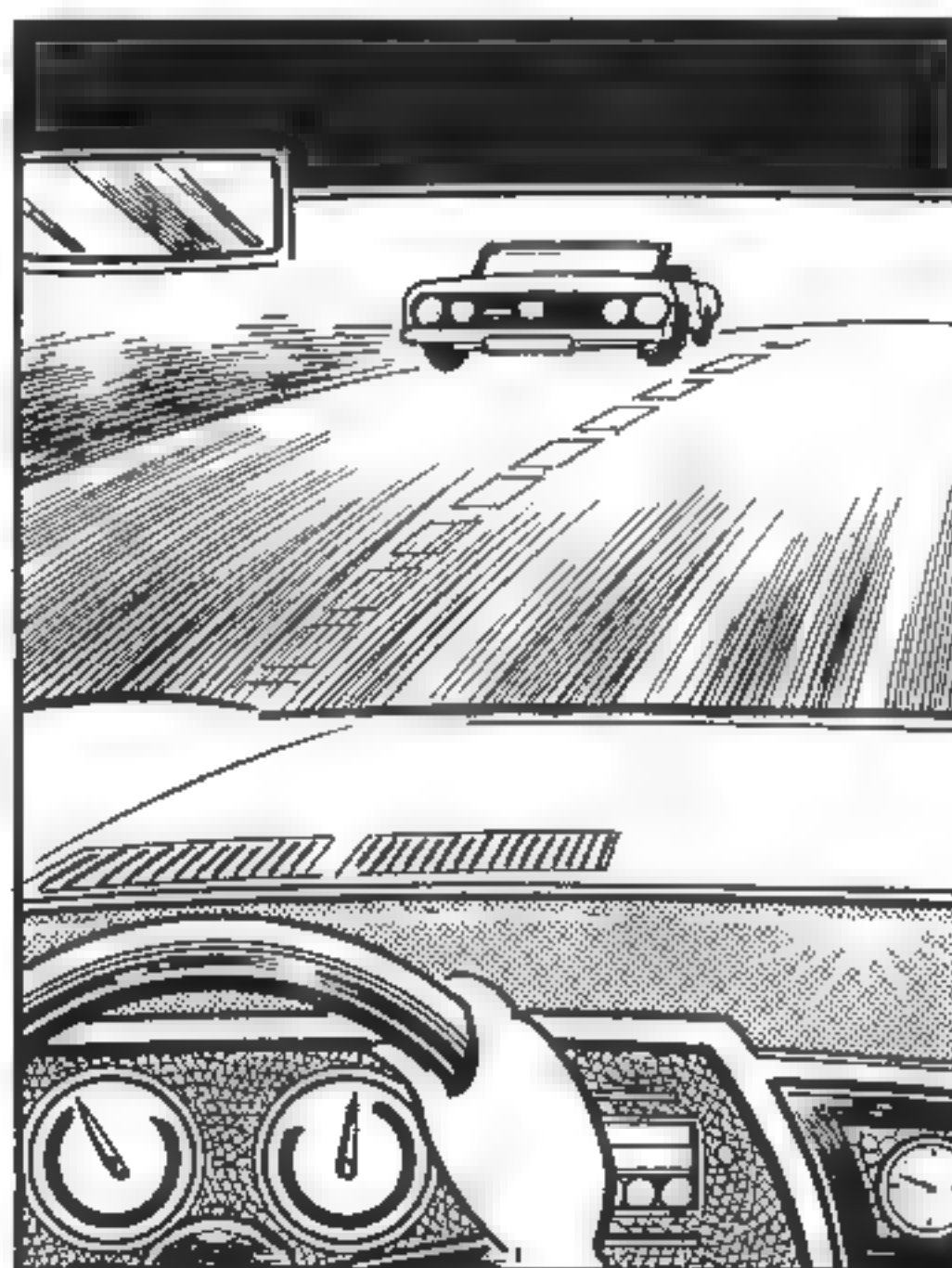




















CHAPTER 4: QUEEN SIGMA

MY
HEAD'S
SPLITTING
!

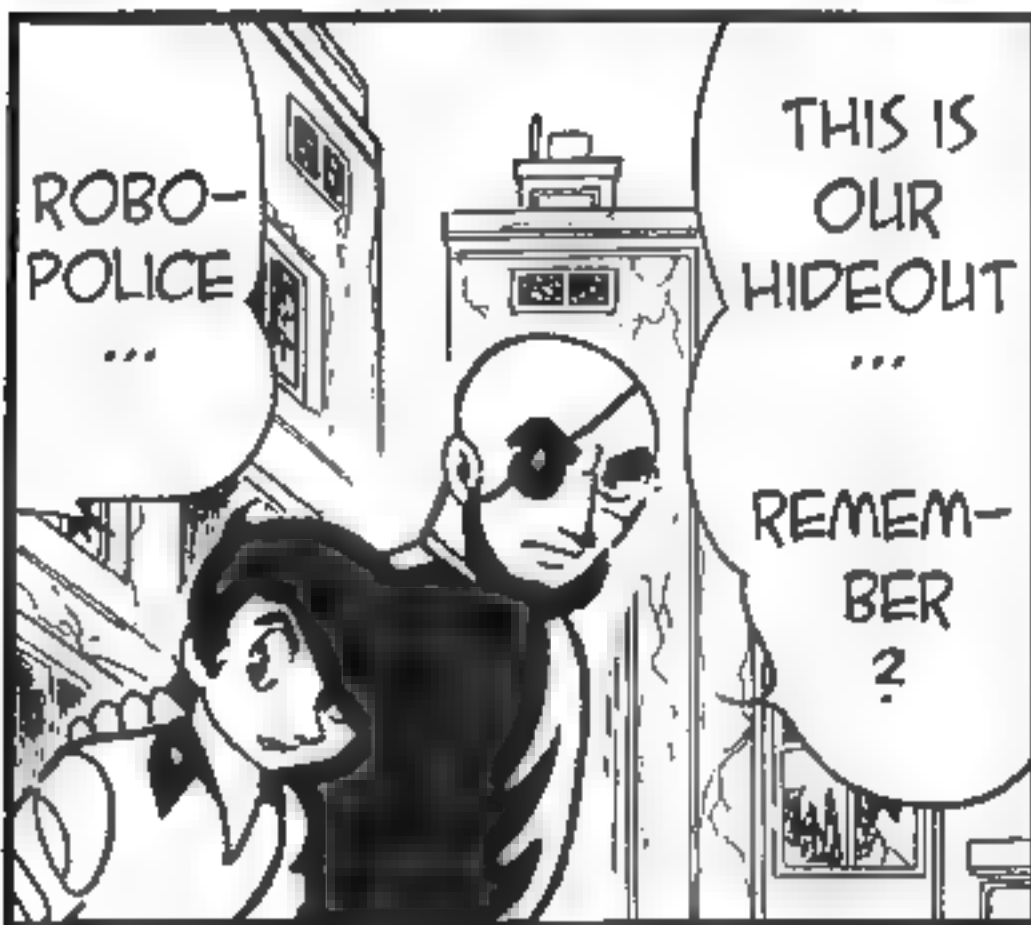
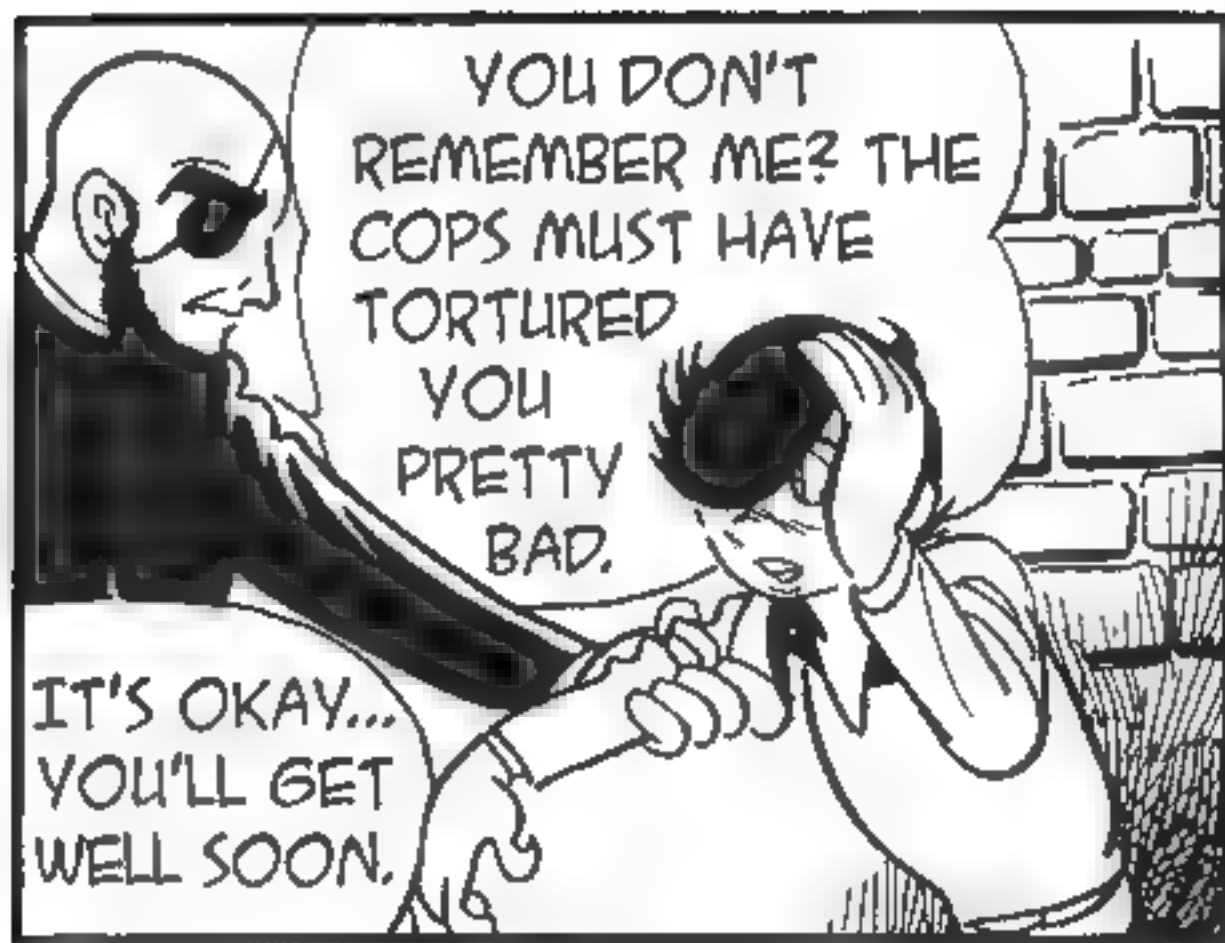
WHERE ON
EARTH AM I?
WHAT
DID I
DO TO
DESERVE
THIS?

MY NAME
IS... SHO...
SHOGO
CHIKAISHI!
THAT'S ALL I
REMEMBER...
LIHH!

HEY,
CHIKAISHI
!

THIS
WAY.

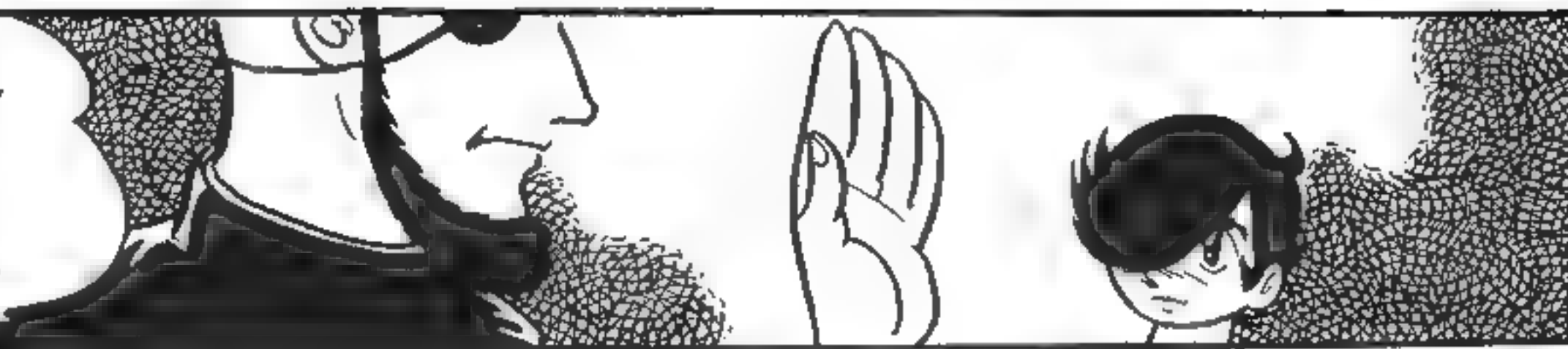
WHO
ARE YOU?
YOU'RE
DEFINITELY
NOT
A COP,
I'D SAY.







NO PROBLEM,
LET US START
FROM THE
BEGINNING...

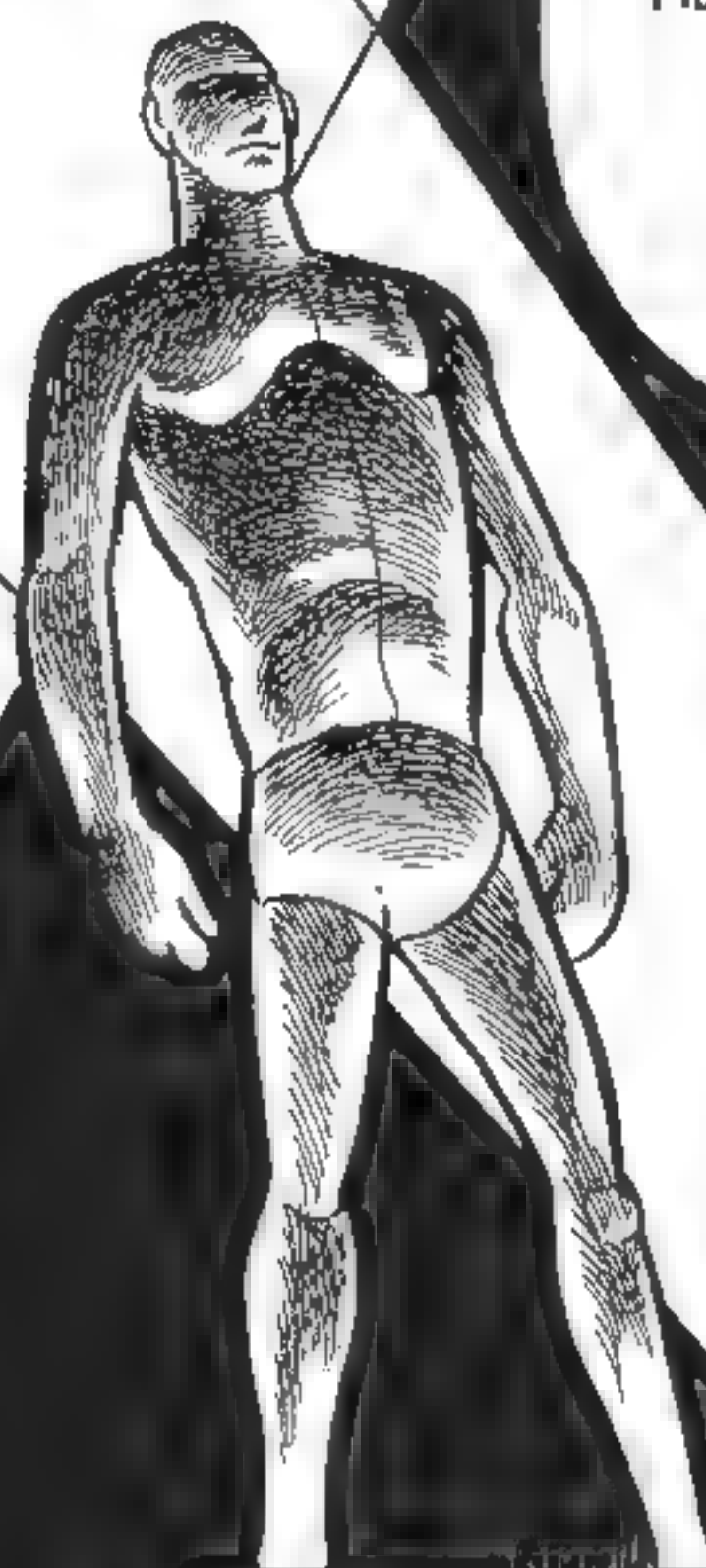


THERE
ARE TWO
TYPES OF
HUMANOIDS
ON EARTH
NOW.

REGULAR
HUMAN BEINGS,
LIKE US,
AND
SYNTHIANS.



HOMO
SAPIENS

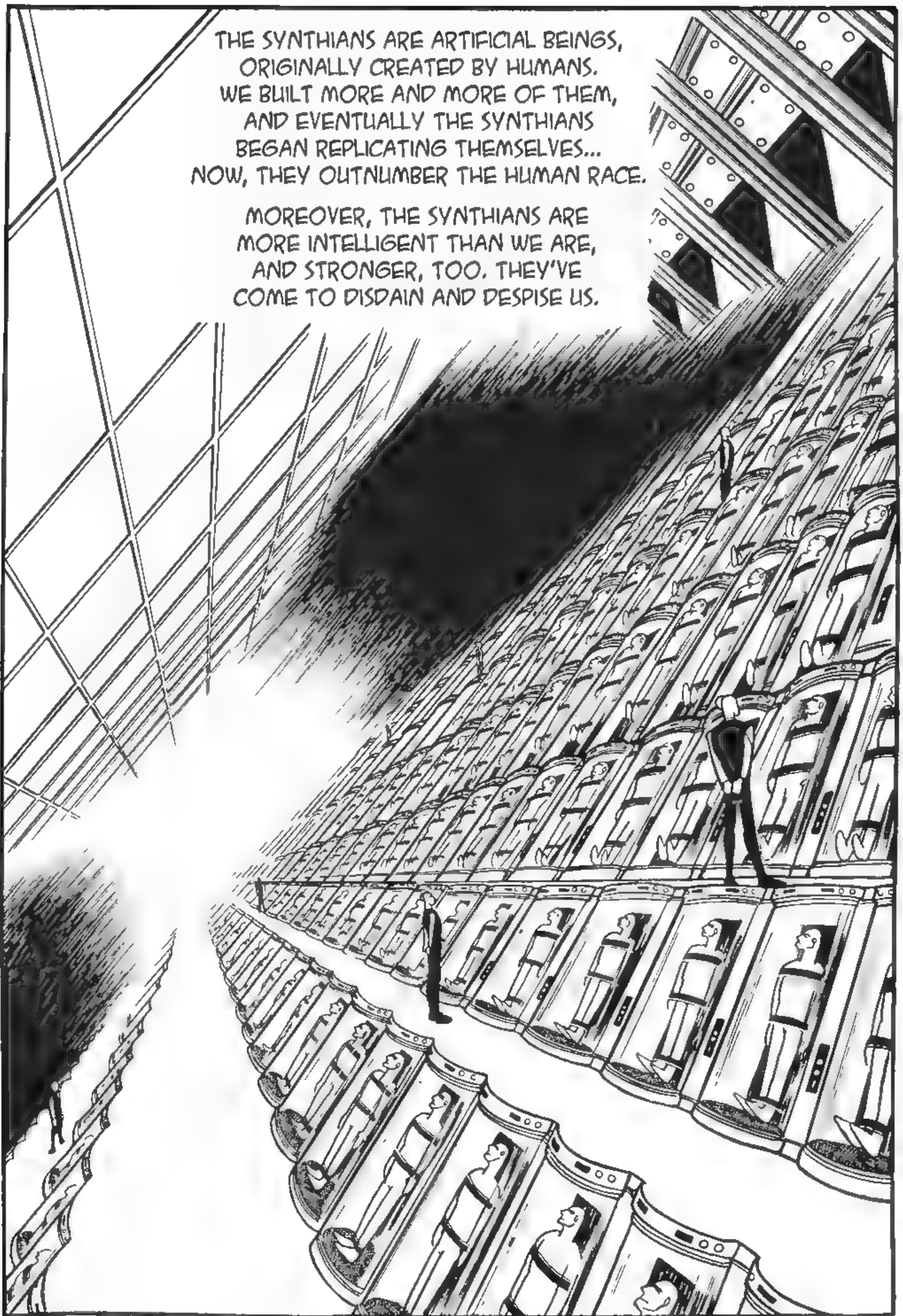


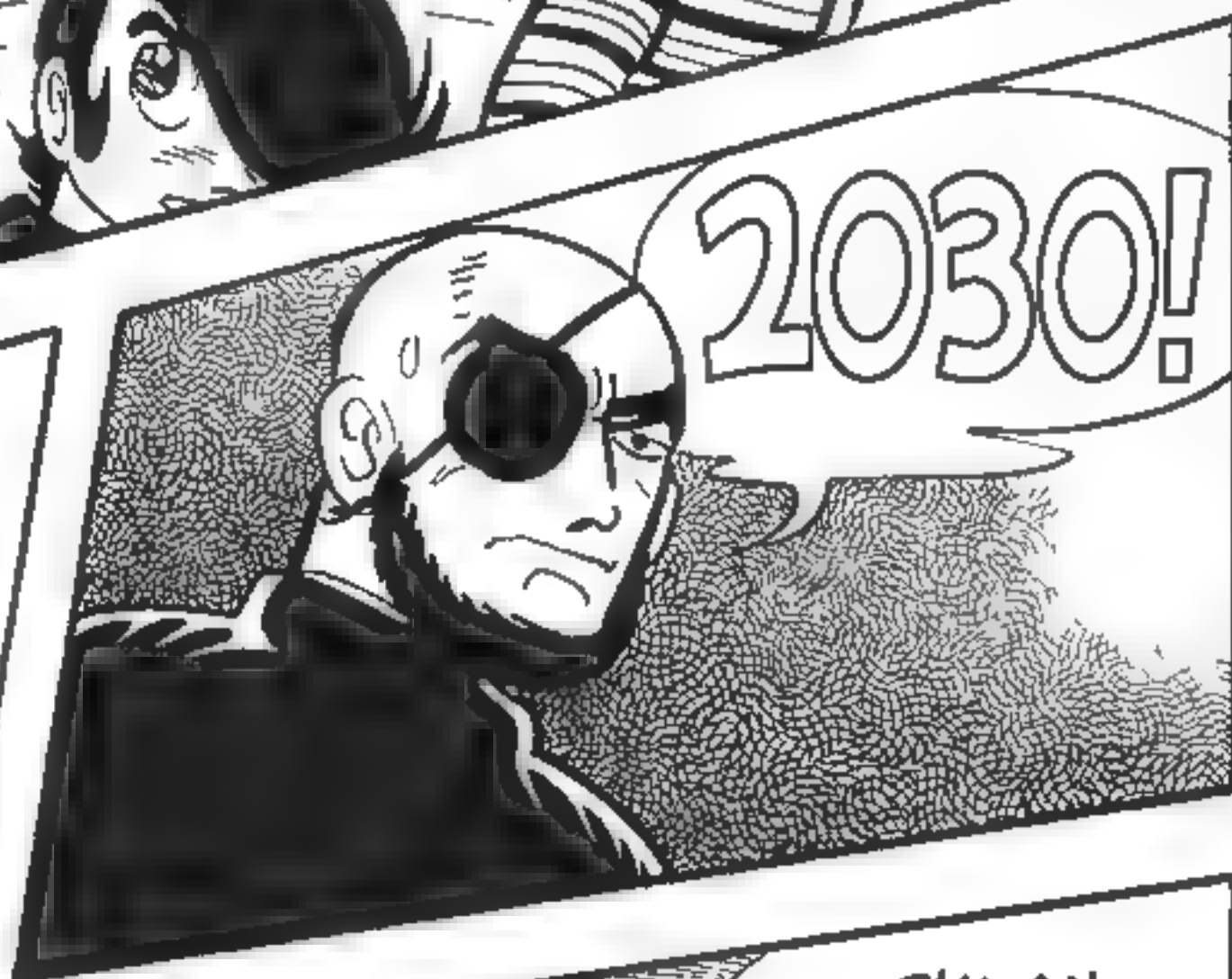
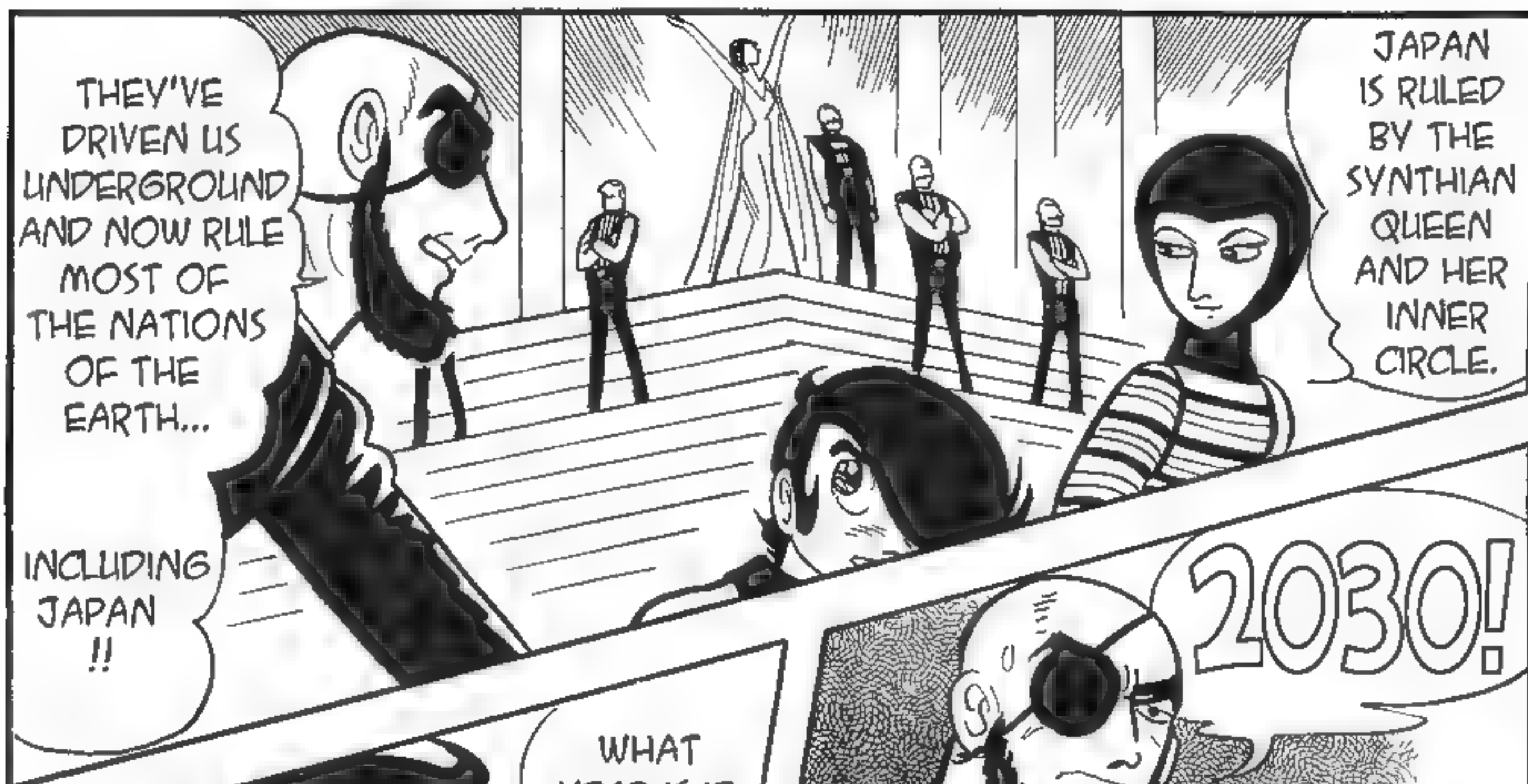
HOMO
LACTEUS



THE SYNTHIANS ARE ARTIFICIAL BEINGS,
ORIGINALLY CREATED BY HUMANS.
WE BUILT MORE AND MORE OF THEM,
AND EVENTUALLY THE SYNTHIANS
BEGAN REPLICATING THEMSELVES...
NOW, THEY OUTNUMBER THE HUMAN RACE.

MOREOVER, THE SYNTHIANS ARE
MORE INTELLIGENT THAN WE ARE,
AND STRONGER, TOO. THEY'VE
COME TO DISDAIN AND DESPISE US.





THERE'S A POWERFUL MINI-BOMB IMPLANTED IN YOUR SECOND UPPER CANINE. WHEN THE TIME COMES, JUST GIVE IT A TWIST, POP IT OUT, AND USE IT. IT CAN BLAST A FEW PEOPLE TO BITS.

AND IF YOUR BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL...

YOU MUST KILL YOURSELF WITH IT.

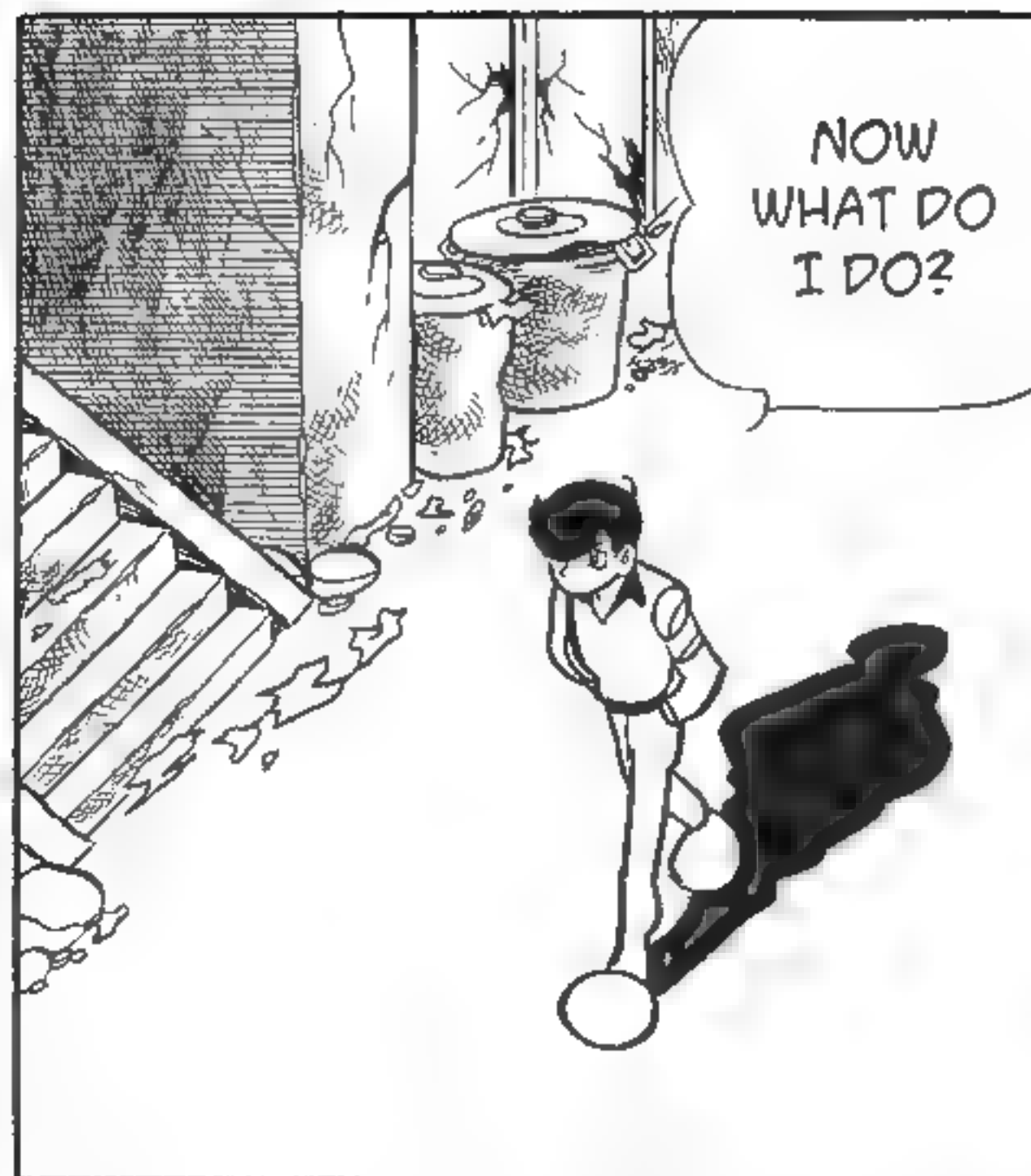
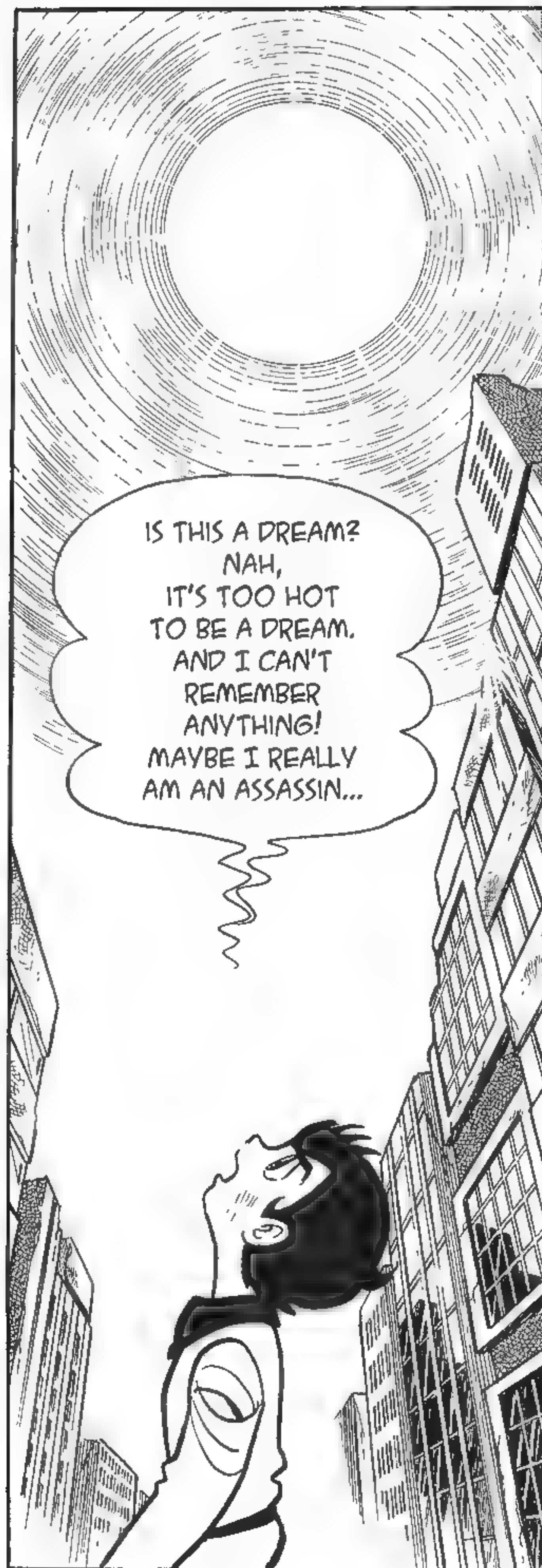
IF THE POLICE CATCH YOU, THEY'LL TORTURE YOU AND SCRAMBLE YOUR MEMORY AGAIN.

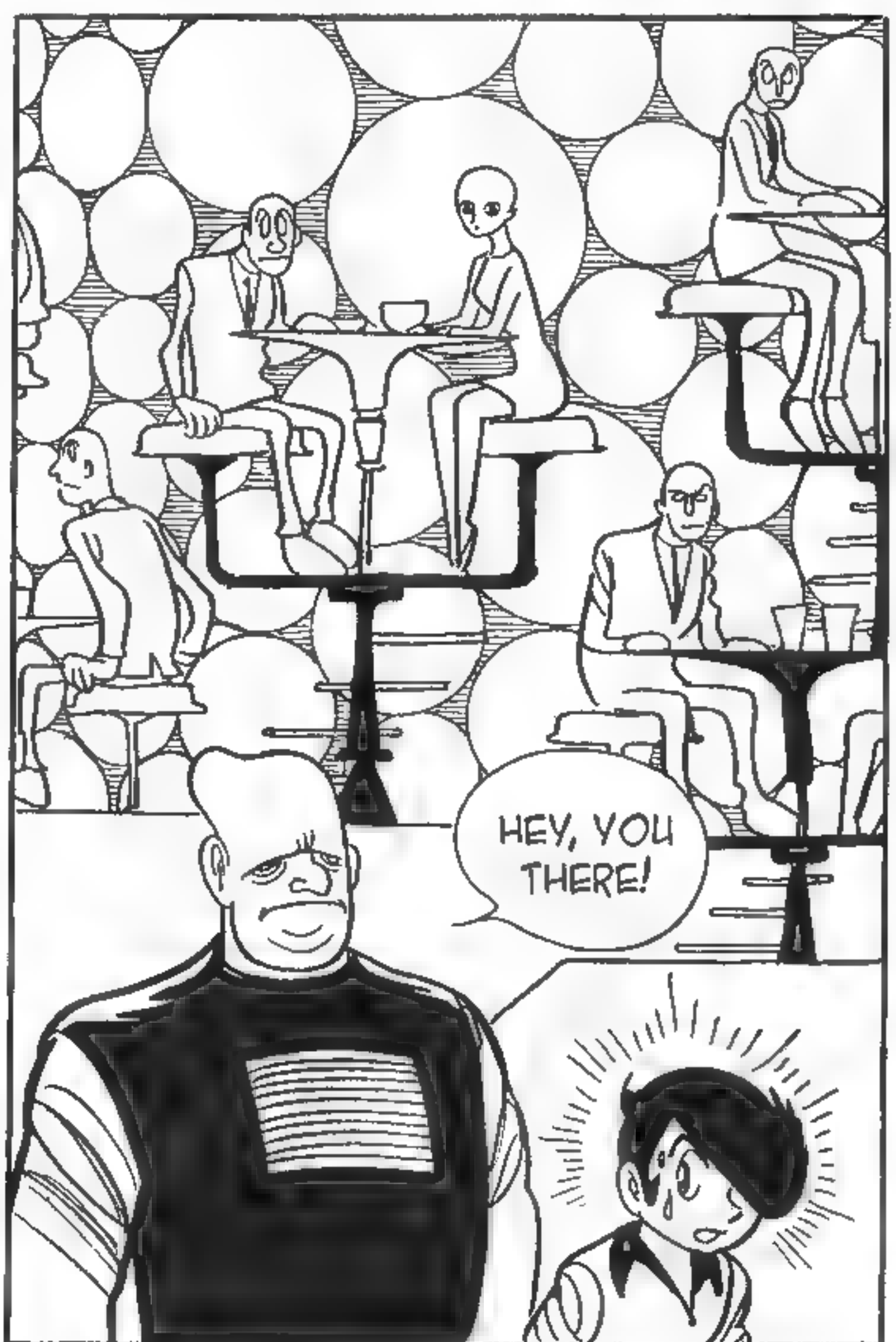
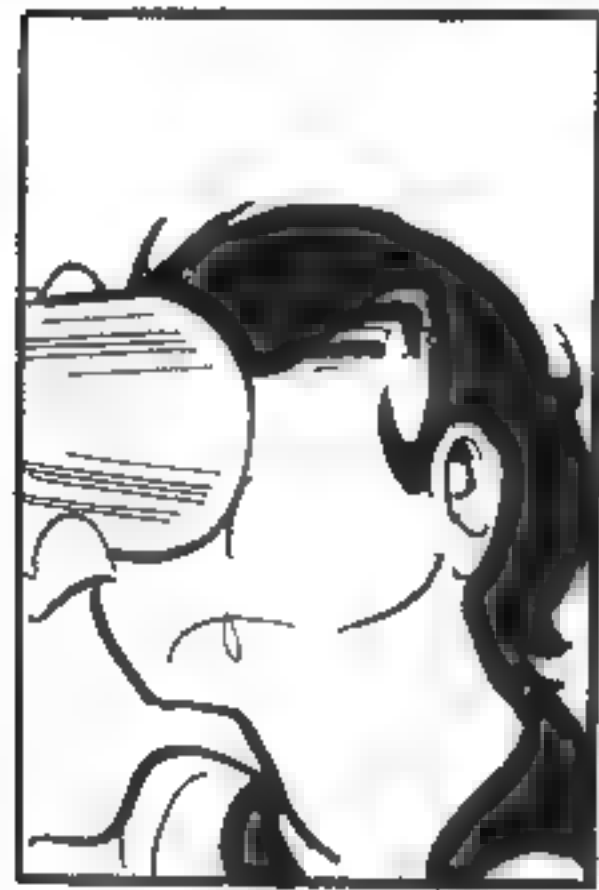
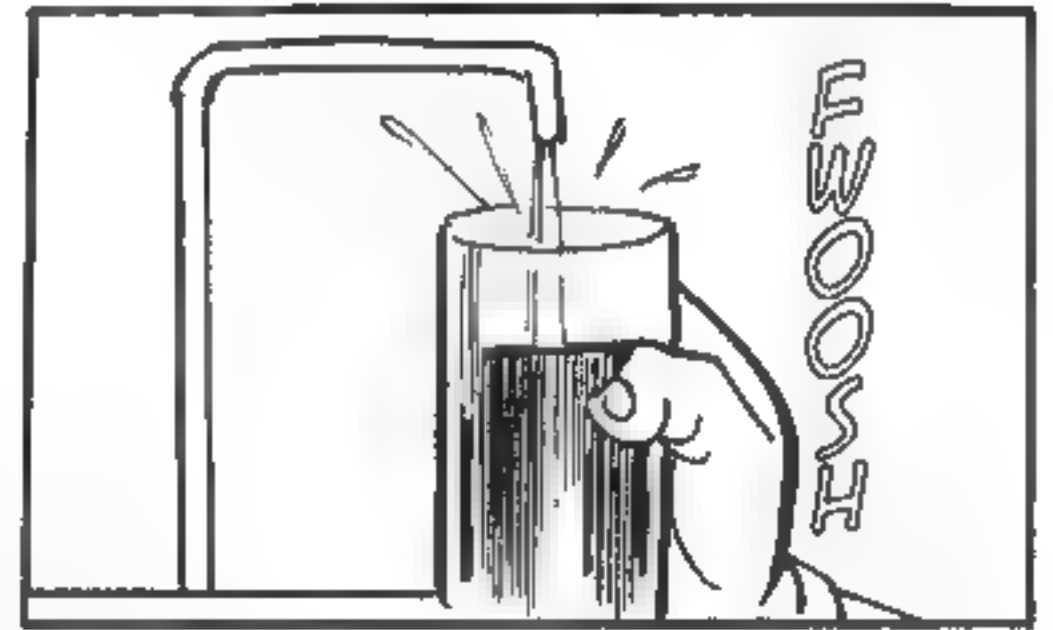
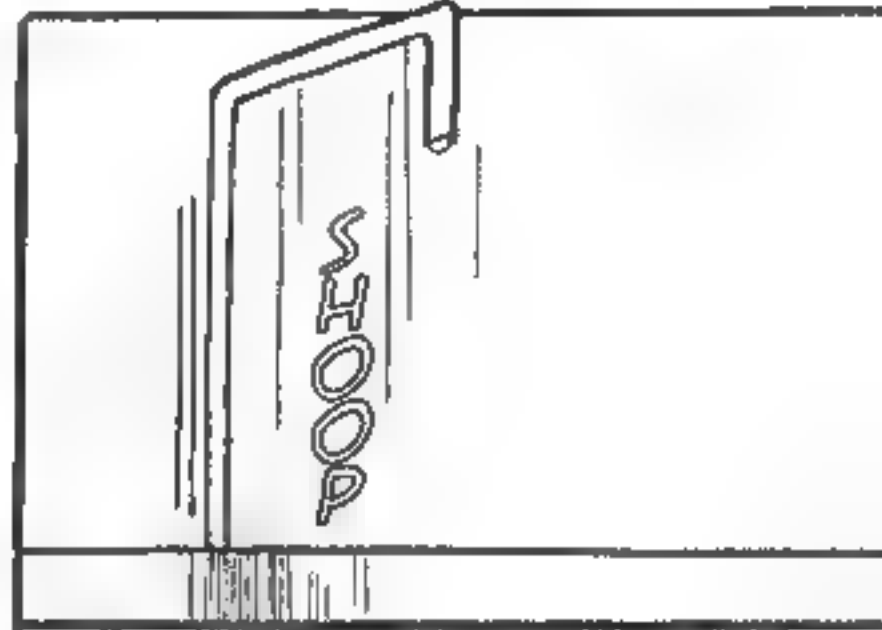
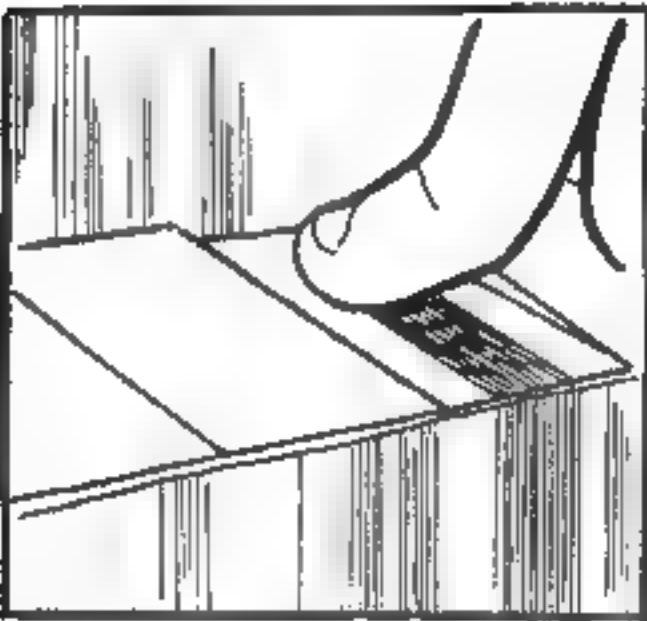
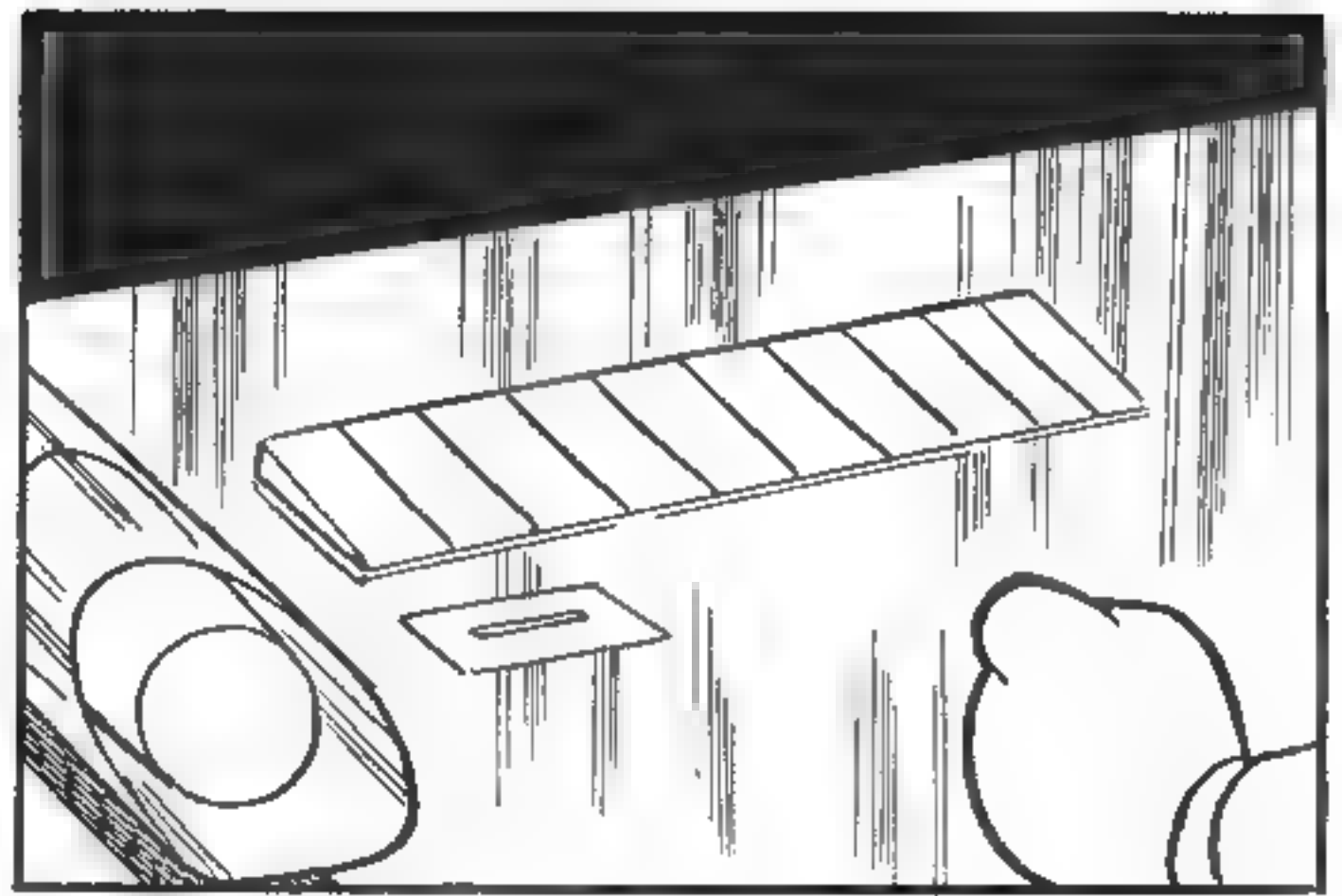
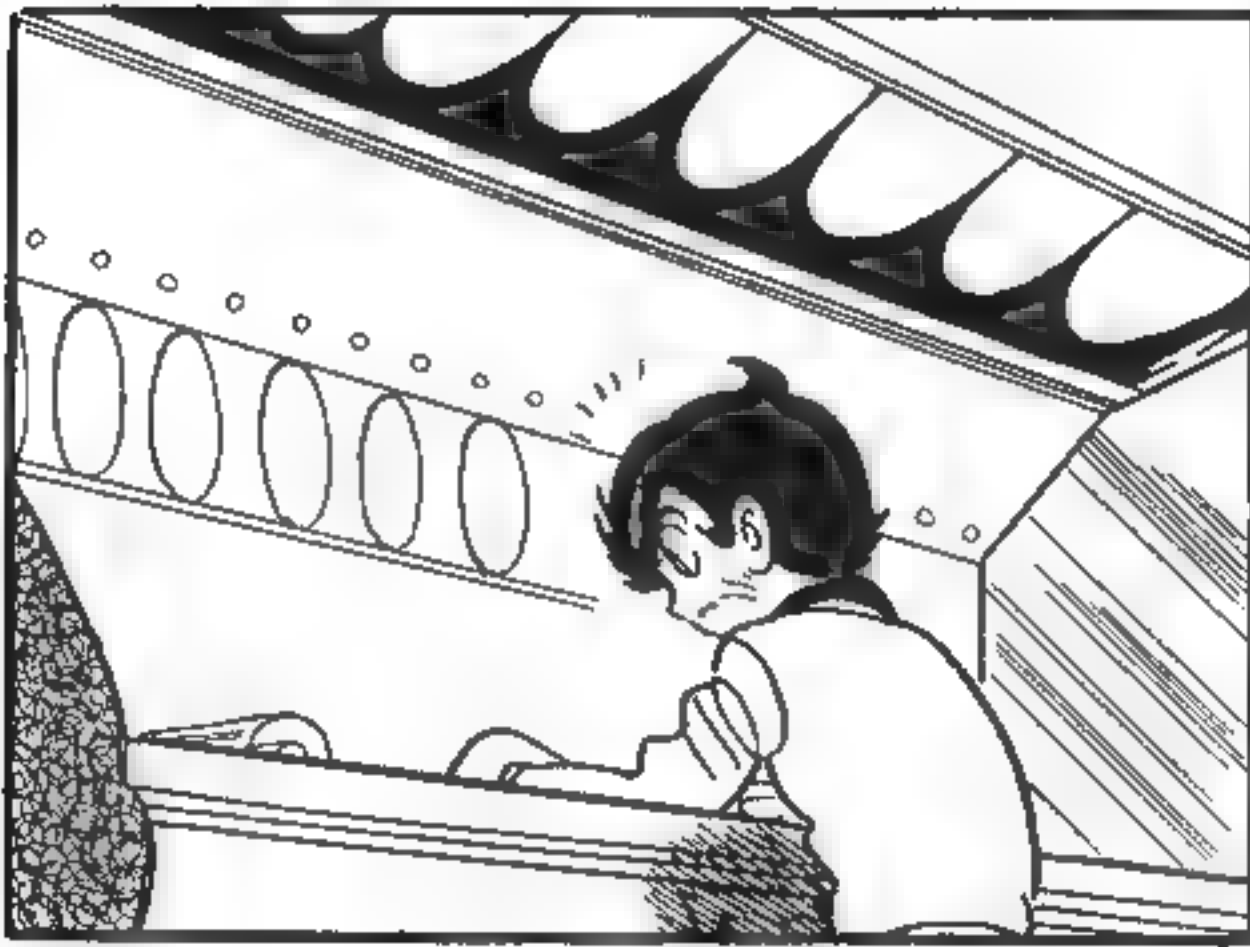
SO WATCH OUT!

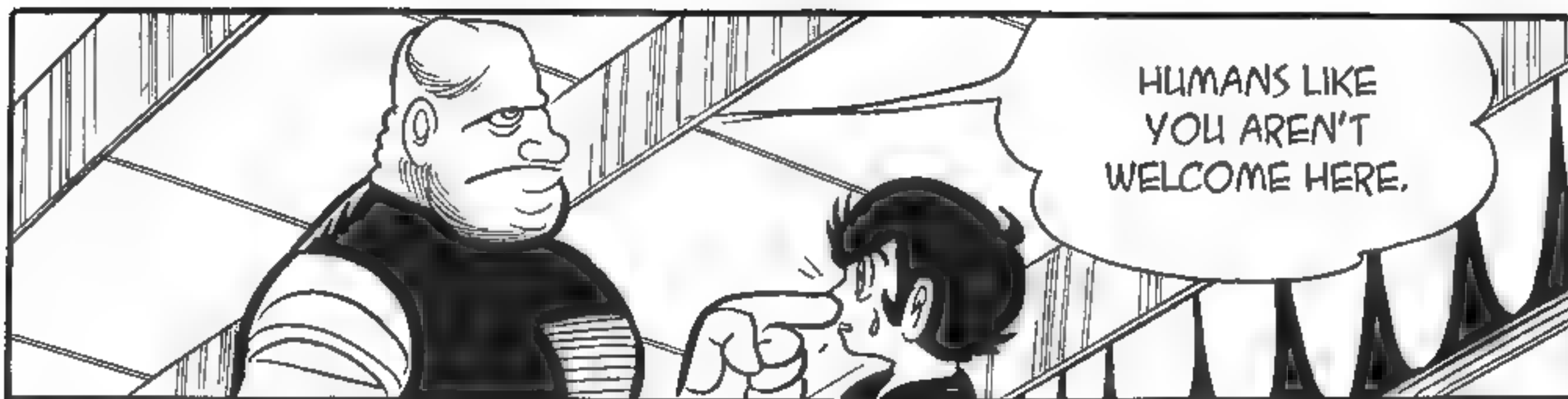
IF ANYONE CAN BECOME THE QUEEN'S SLAVE, YOU CAN! WE PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS!

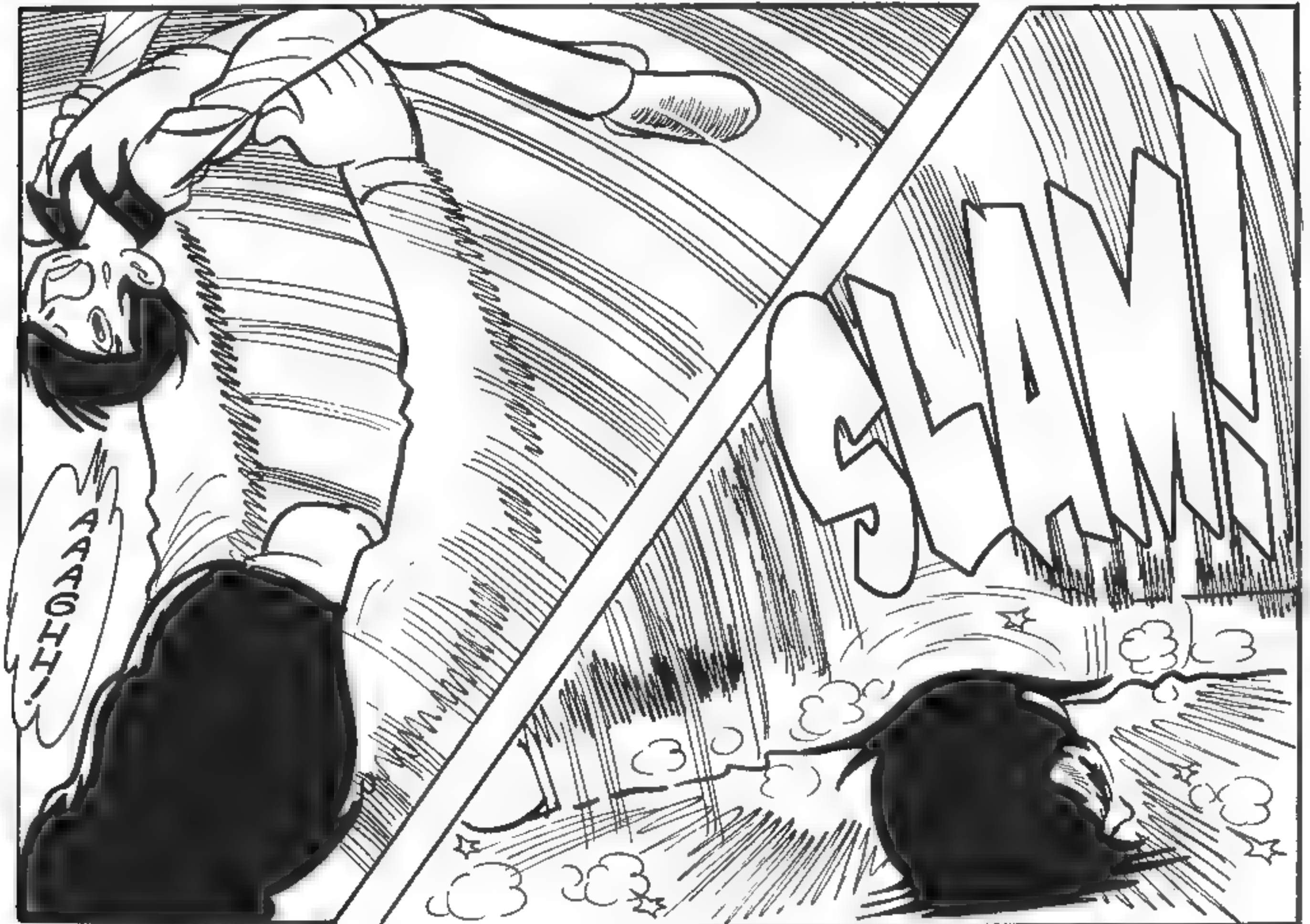
DO IT FOR MANKIND!

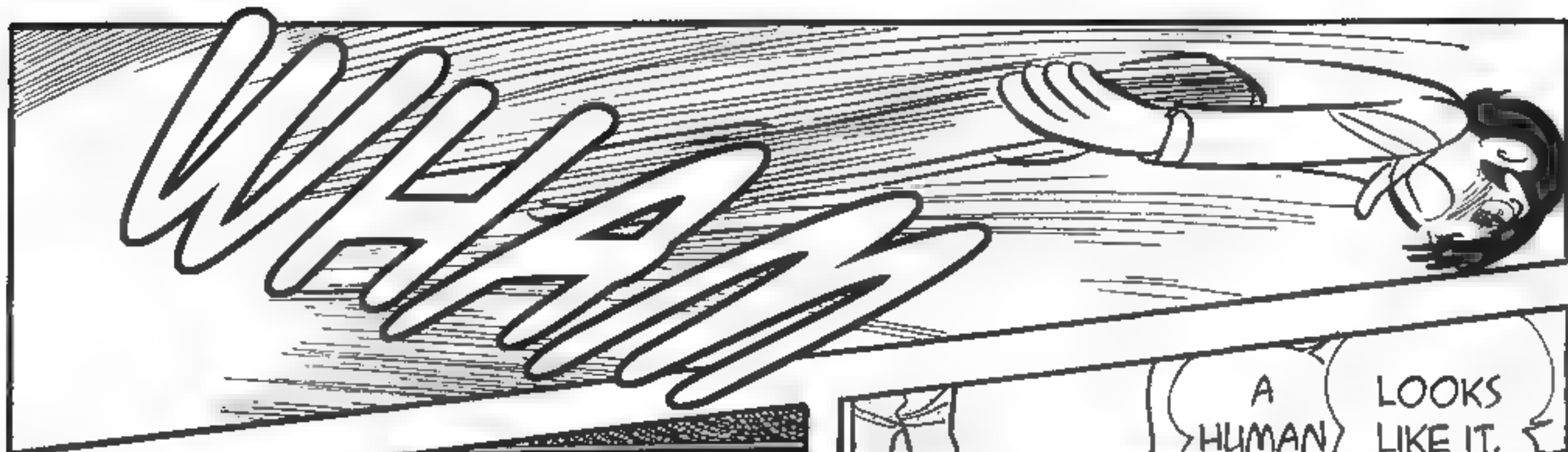
SO BRIGHT ...

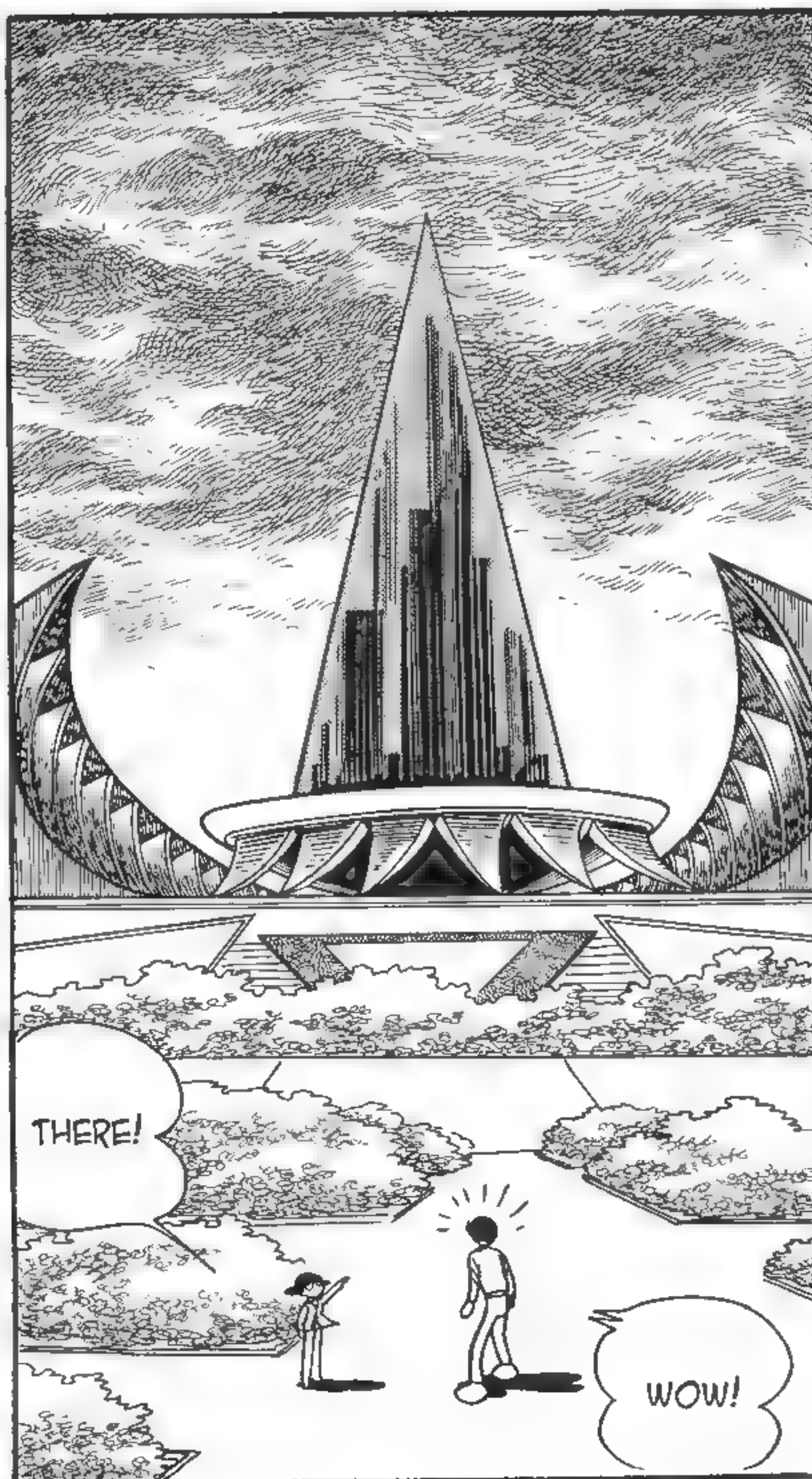


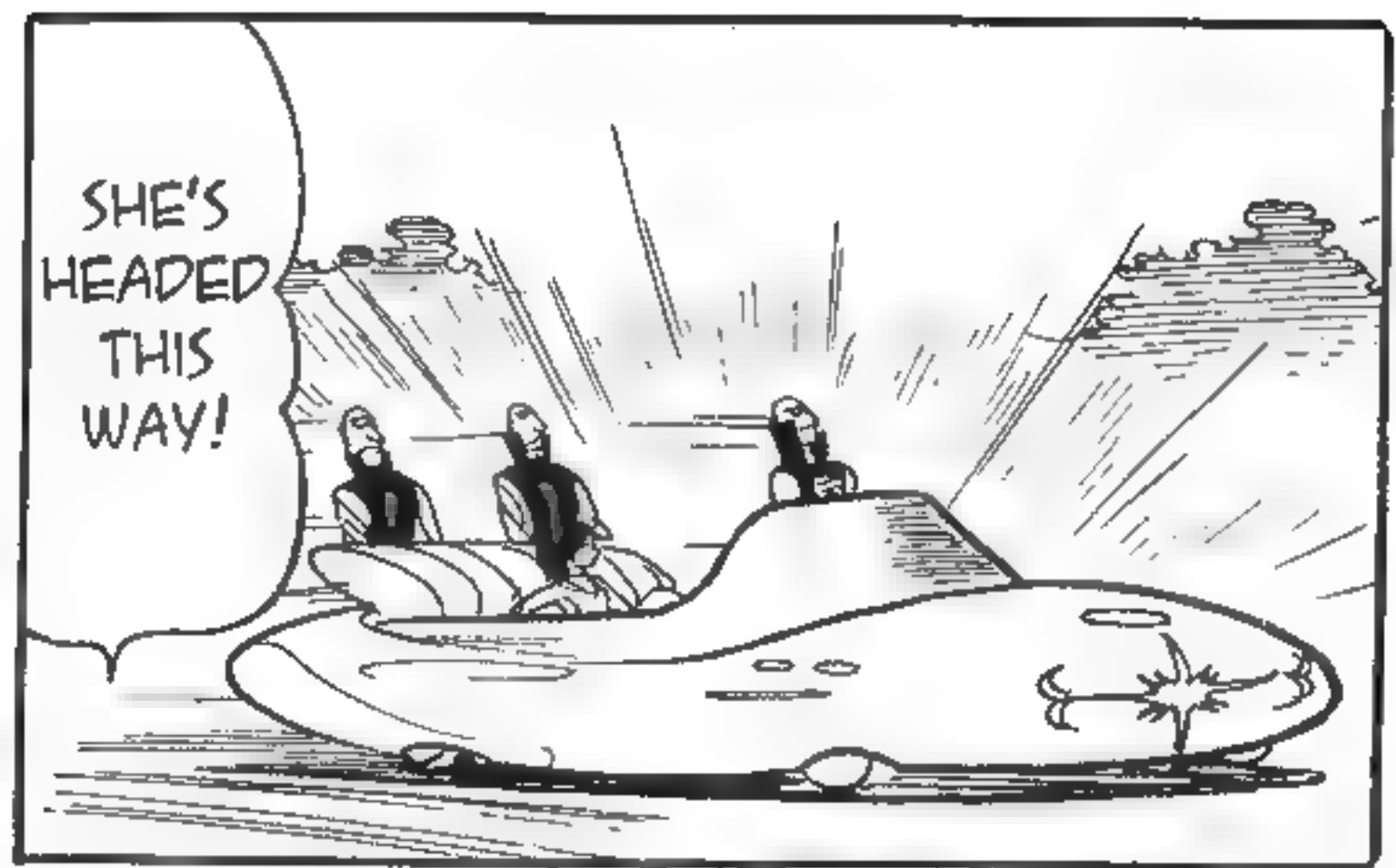


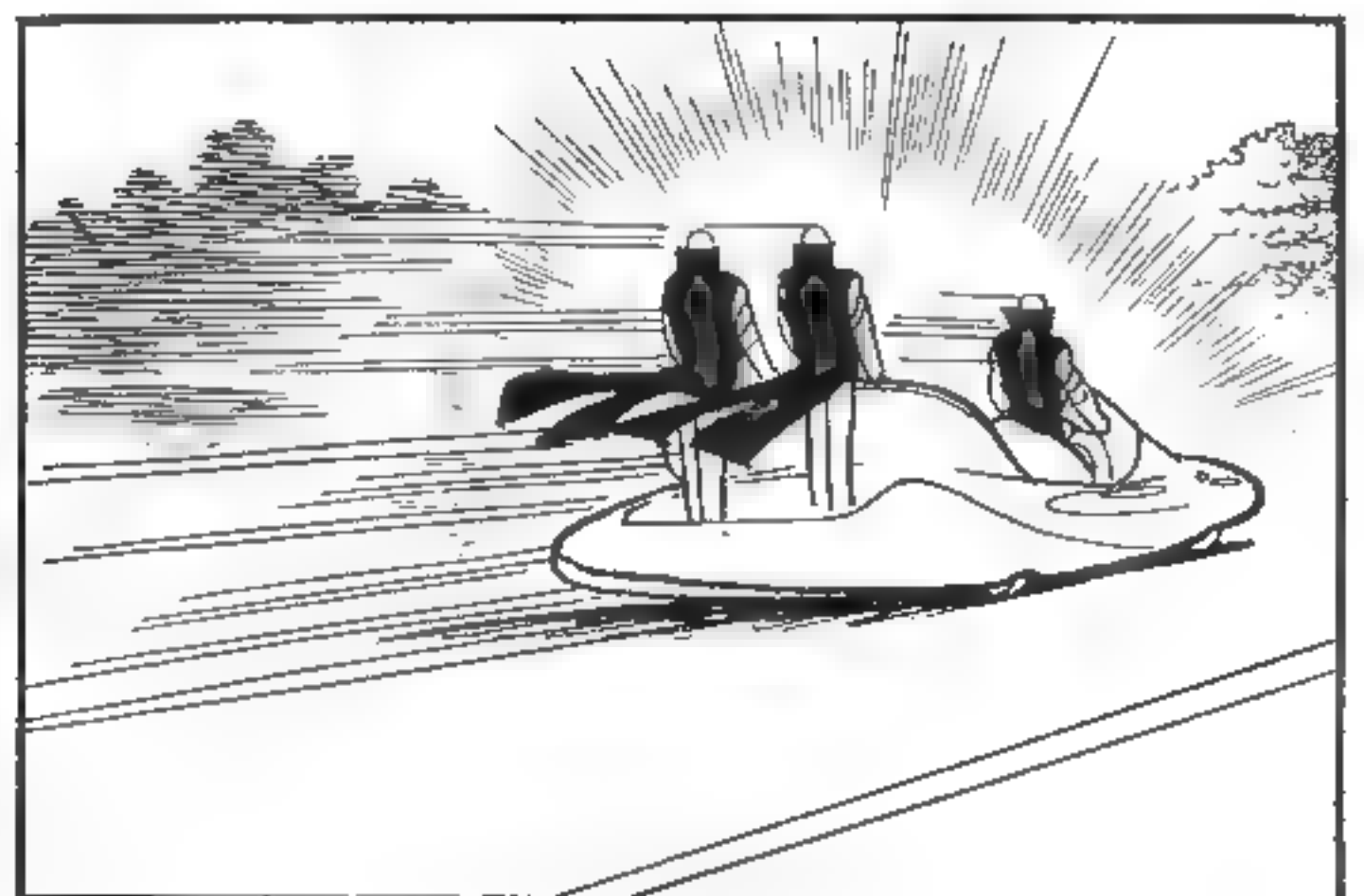


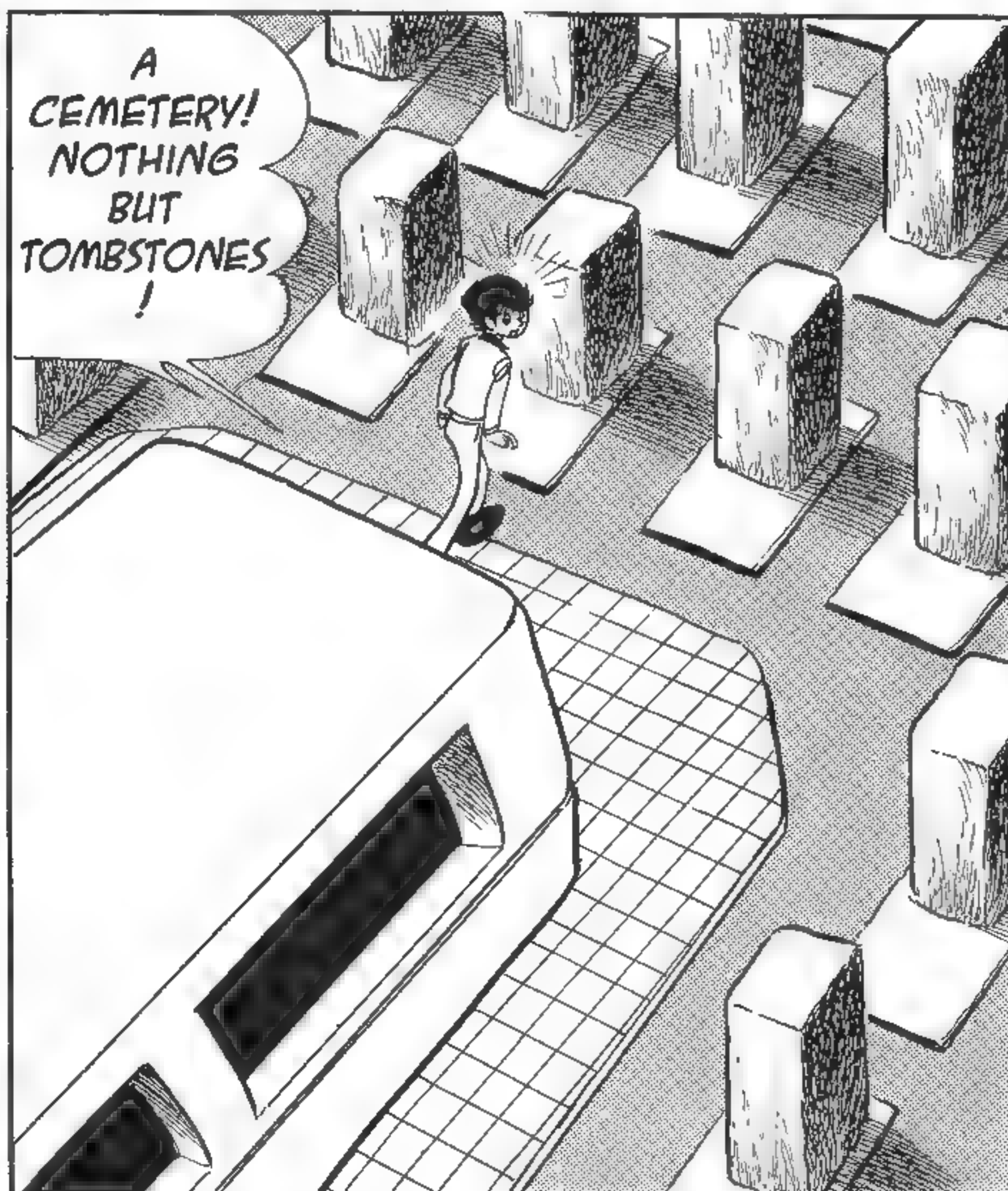
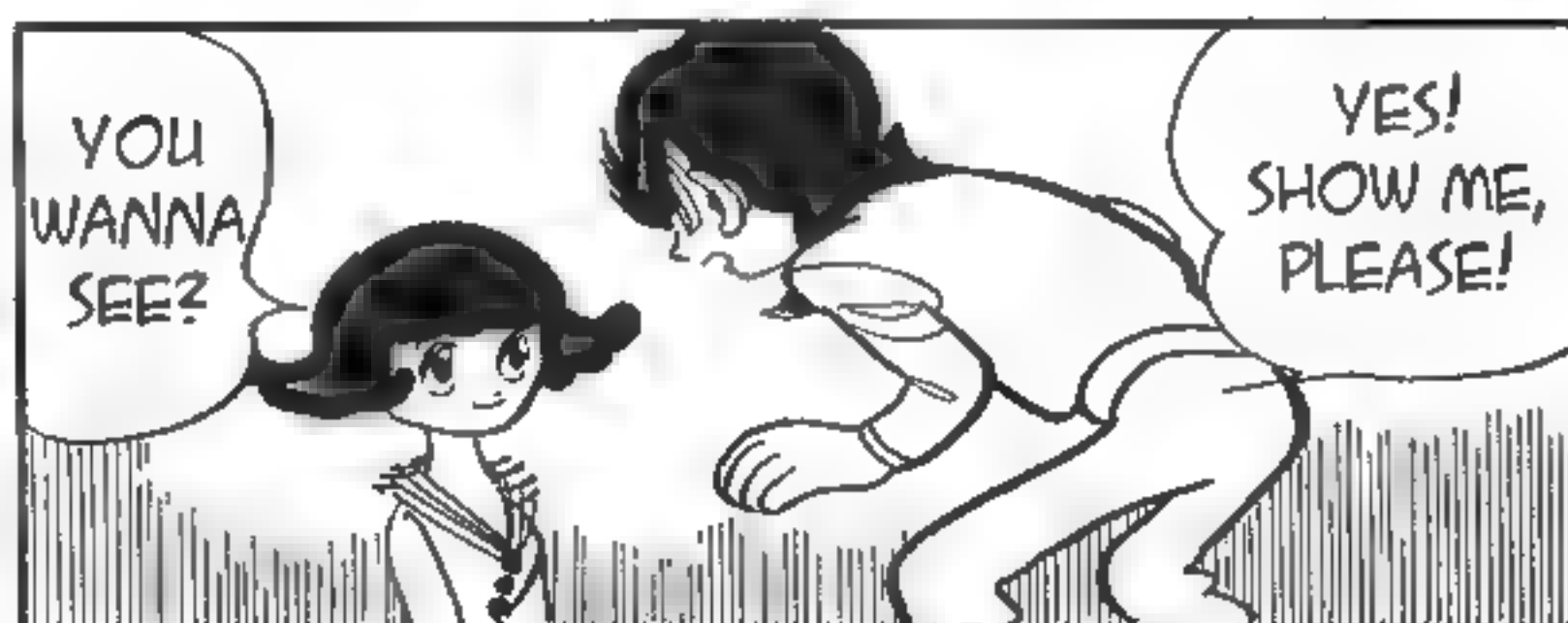
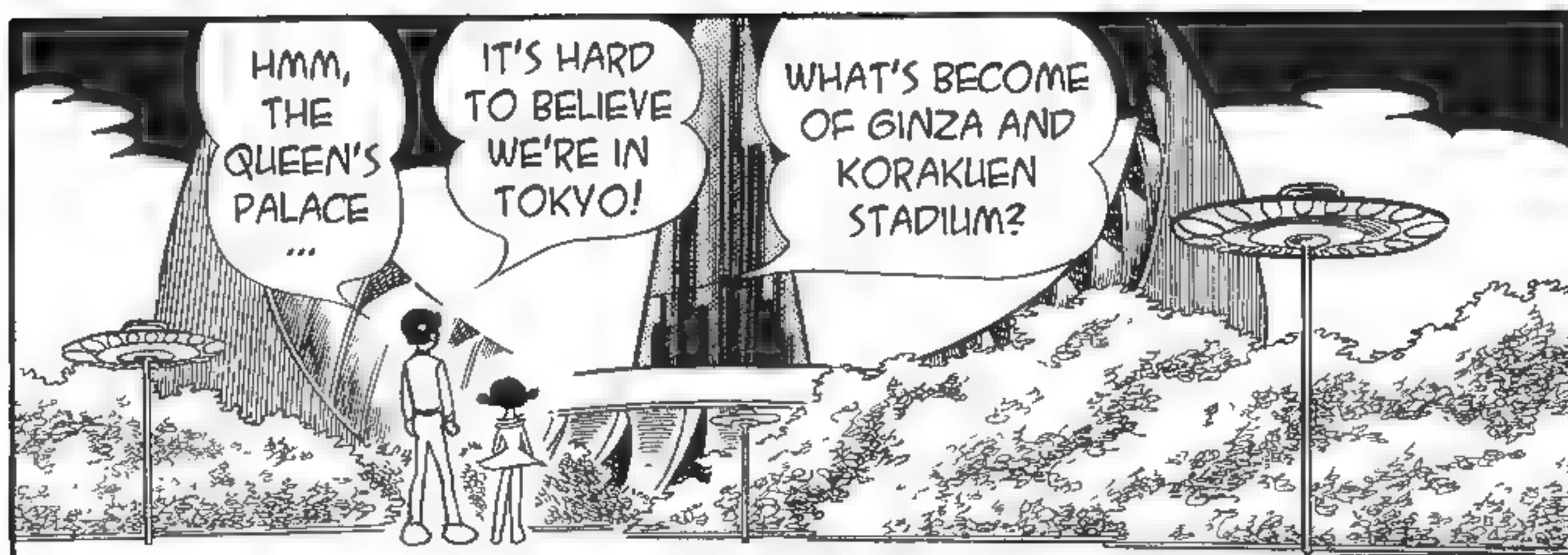


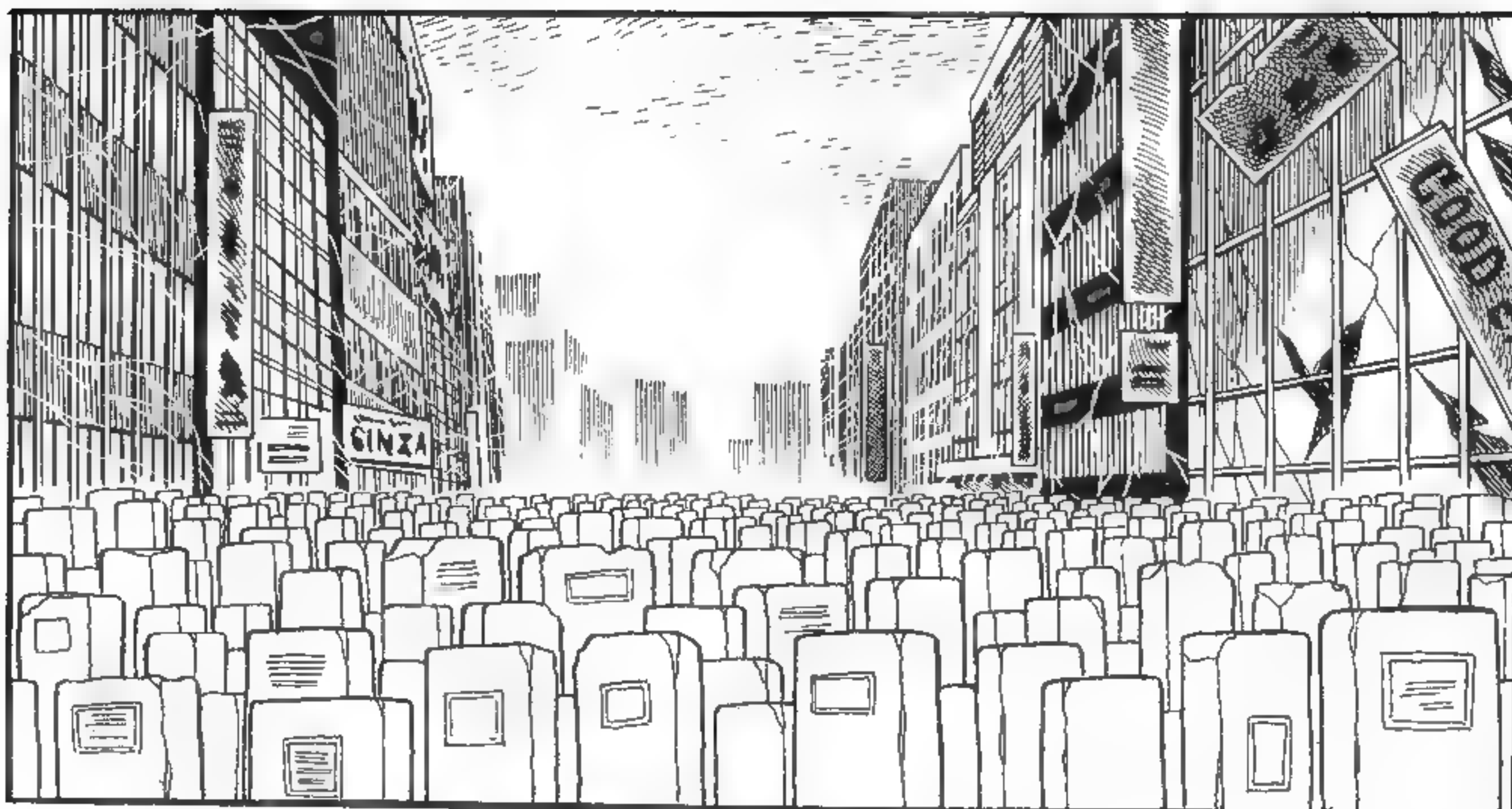


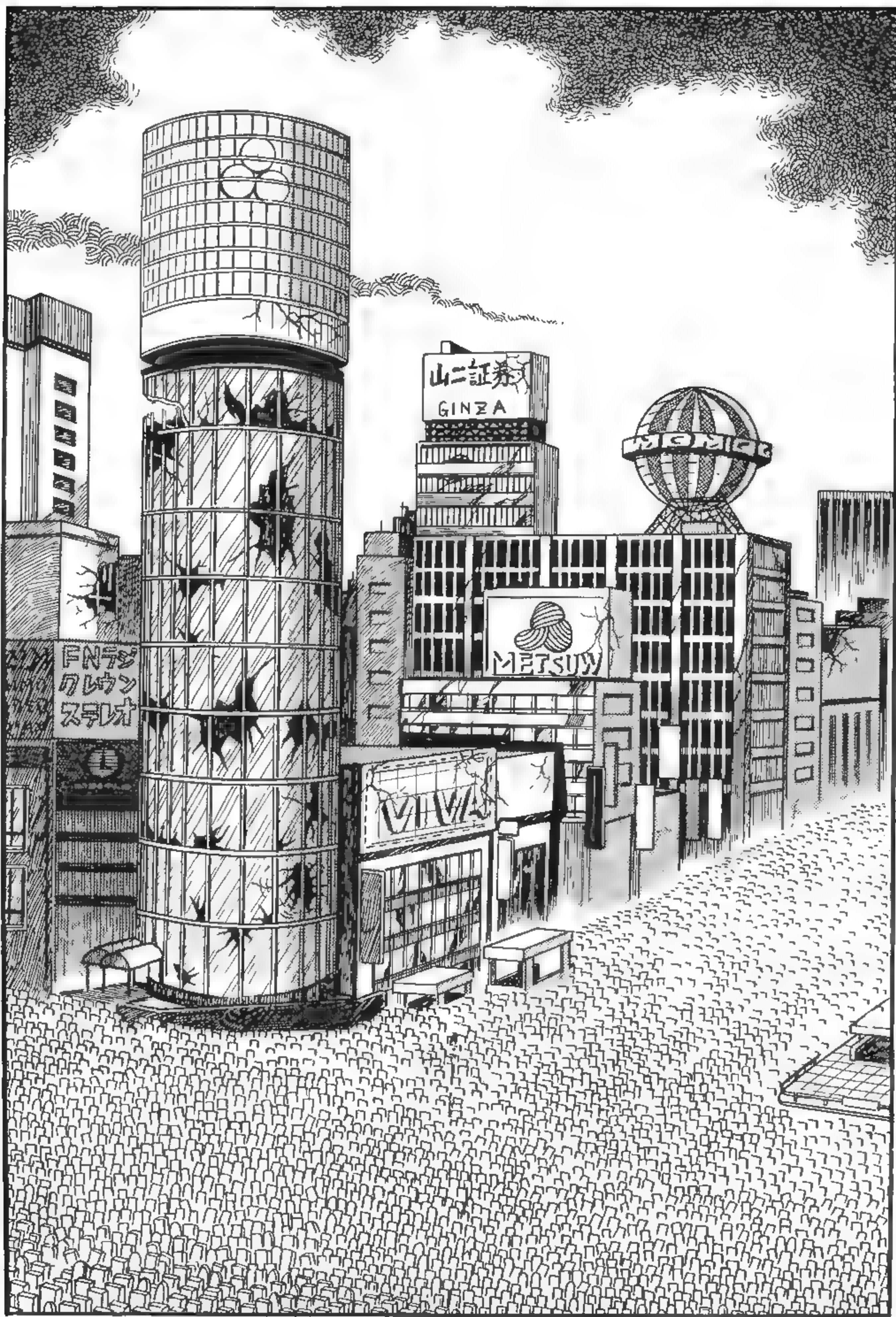


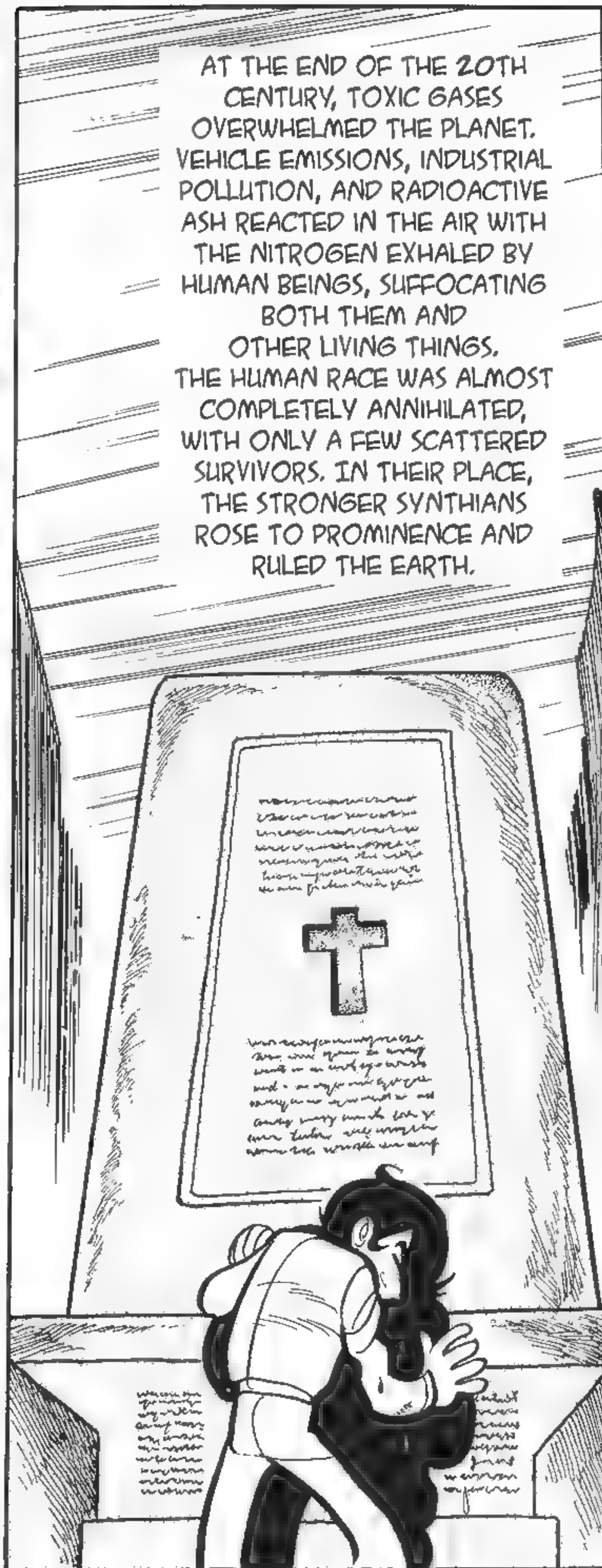
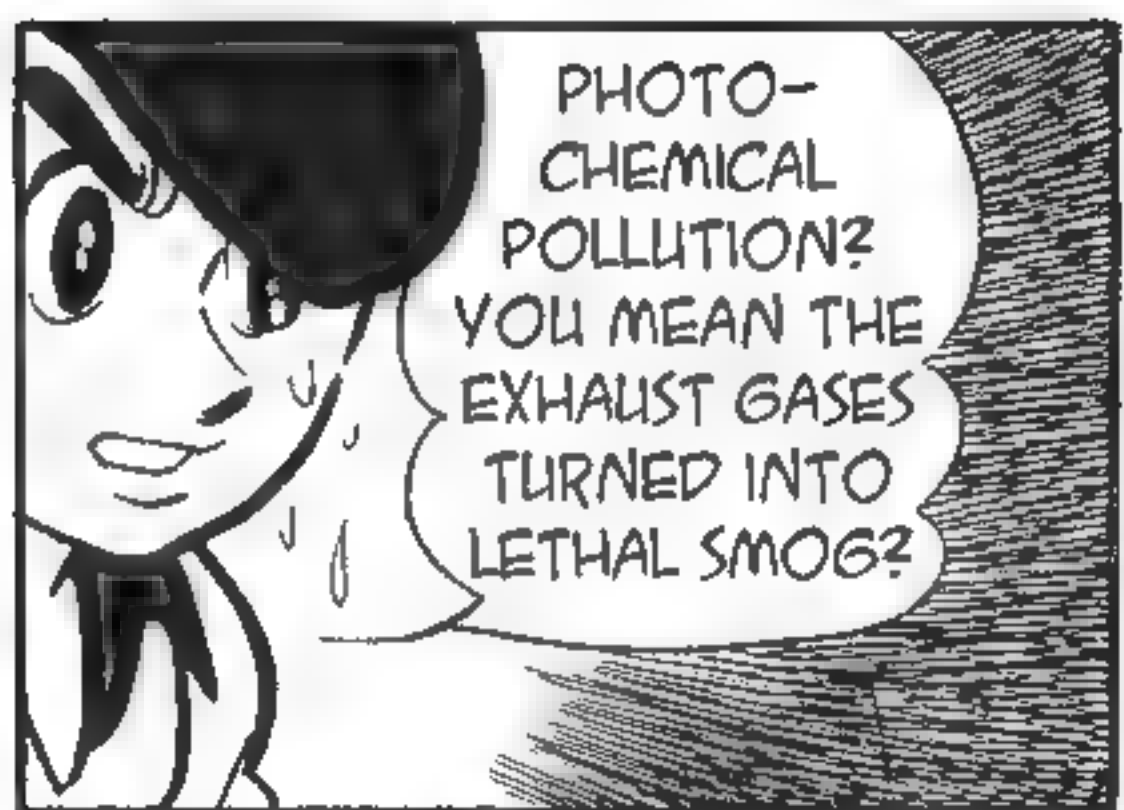


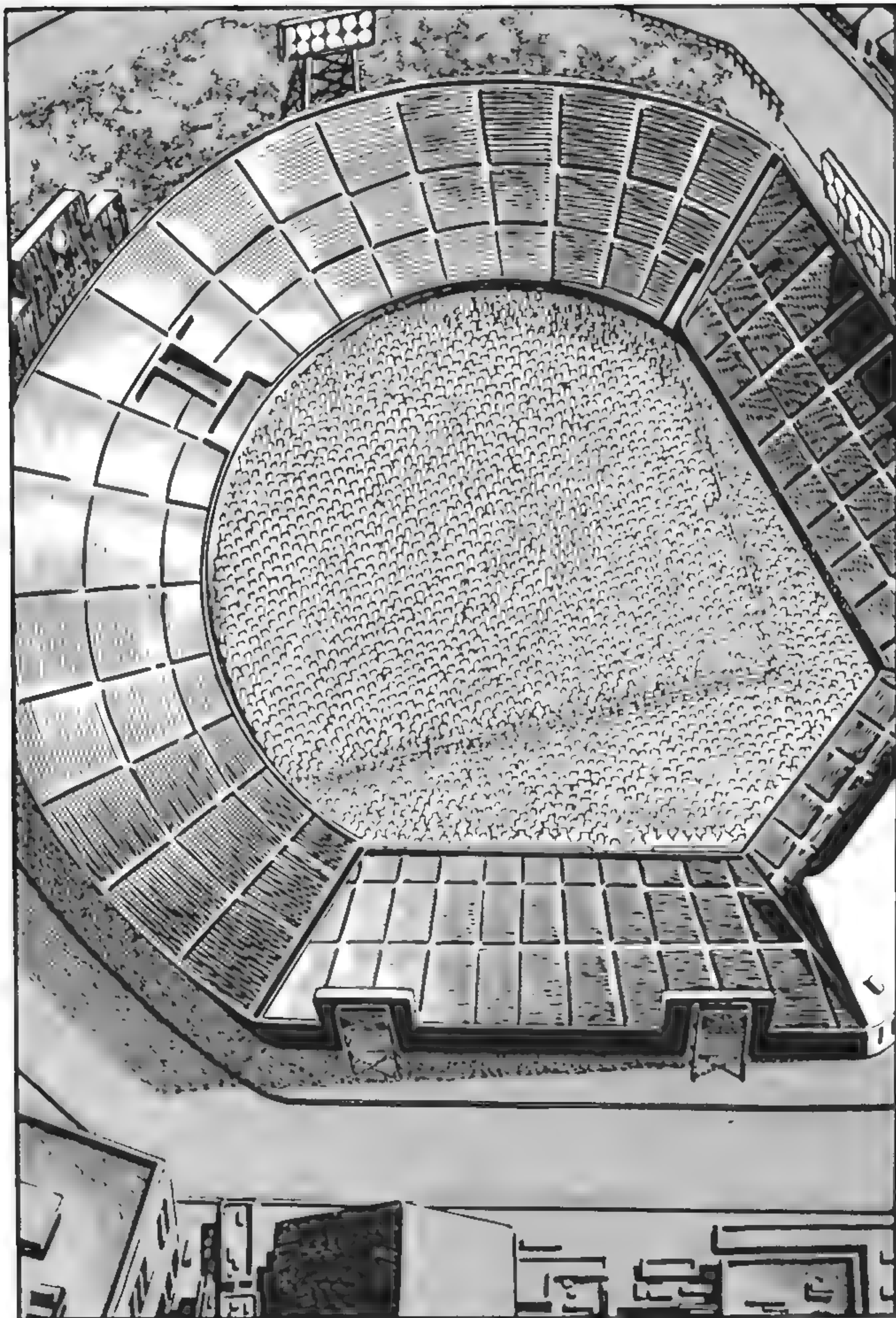


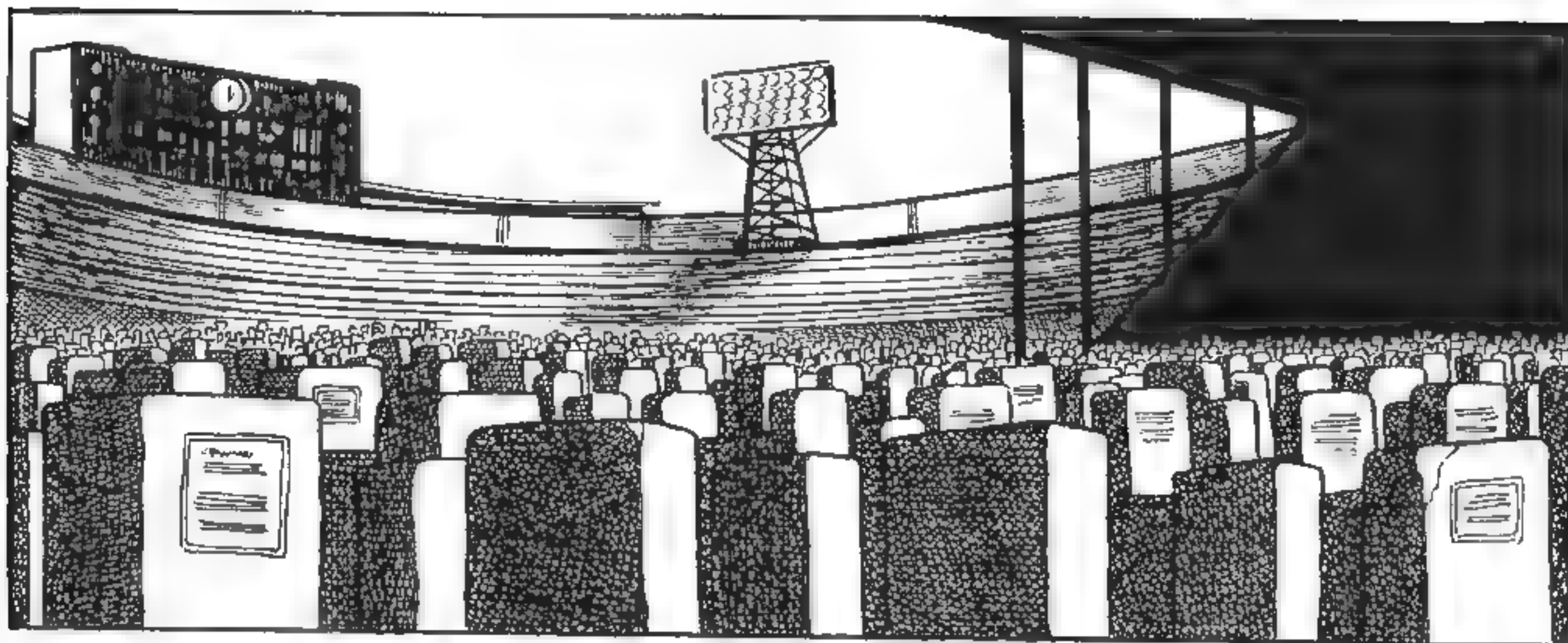


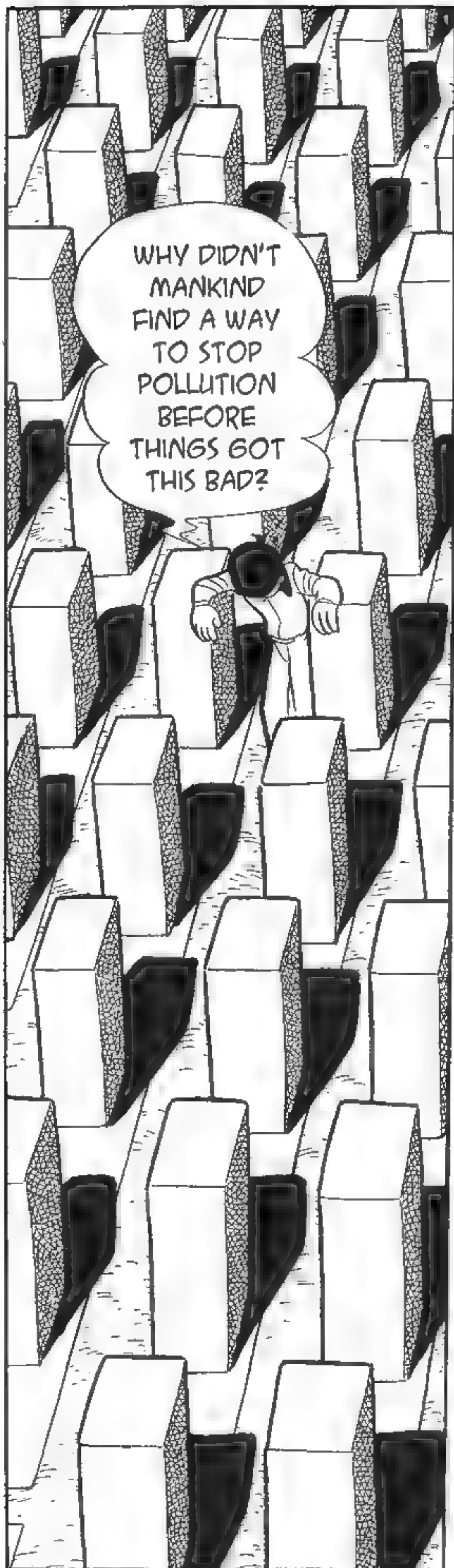




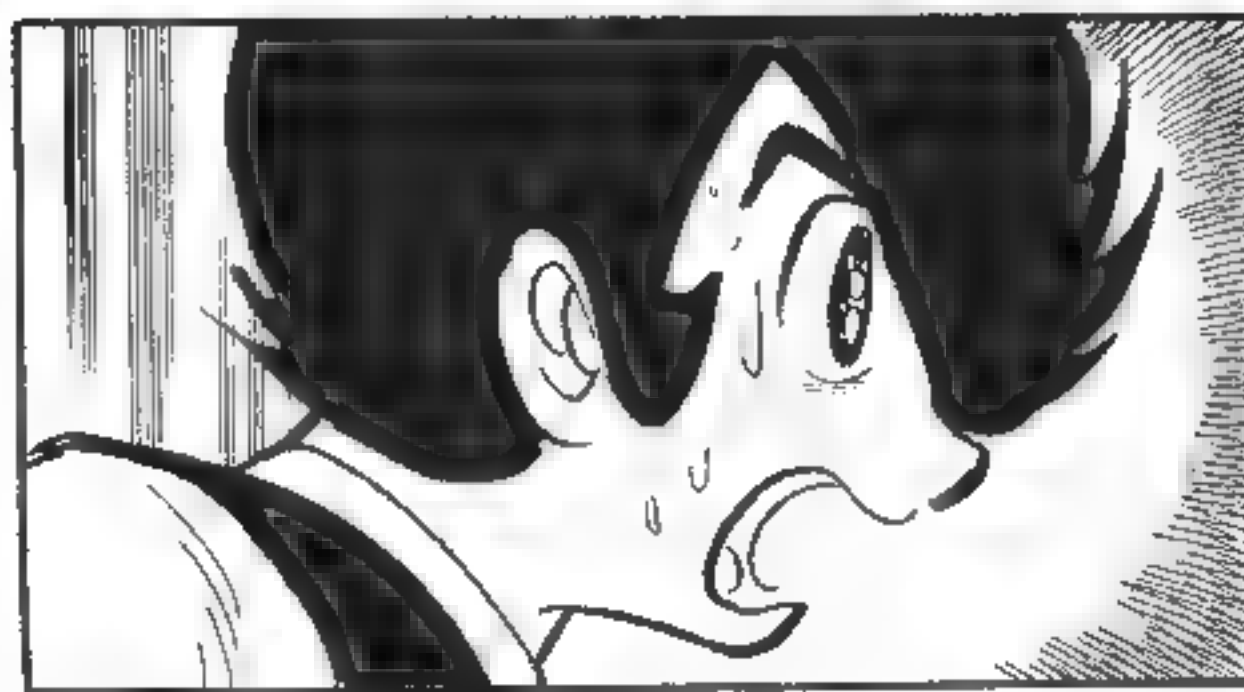


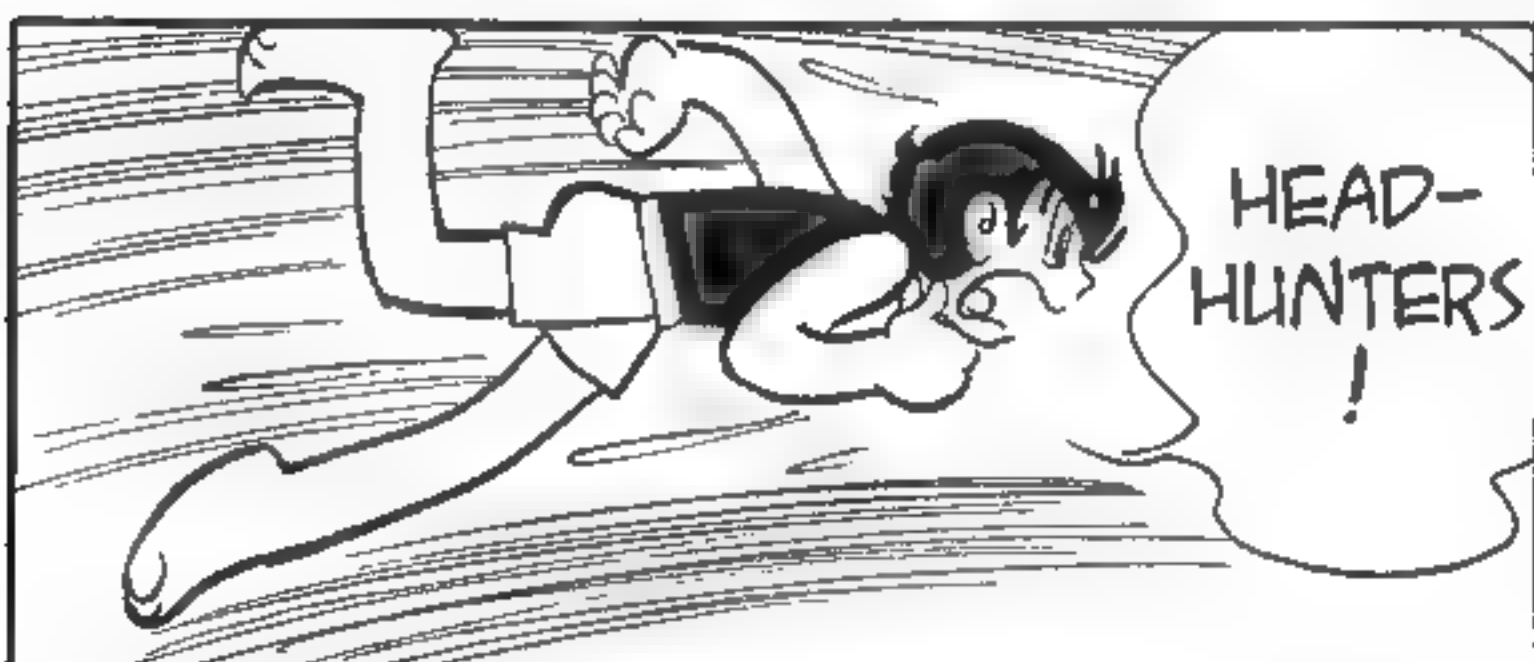


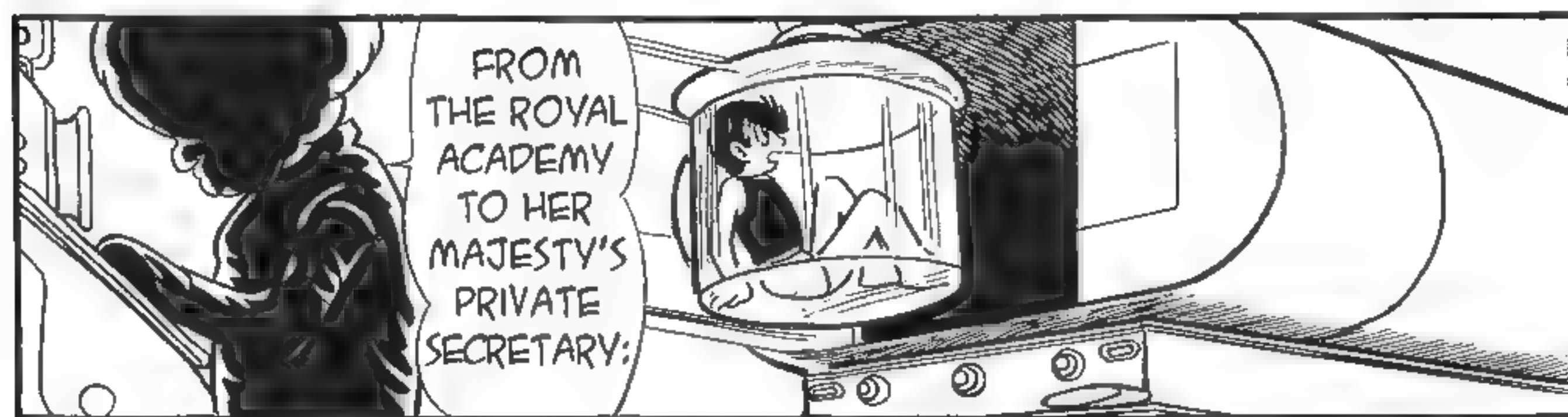


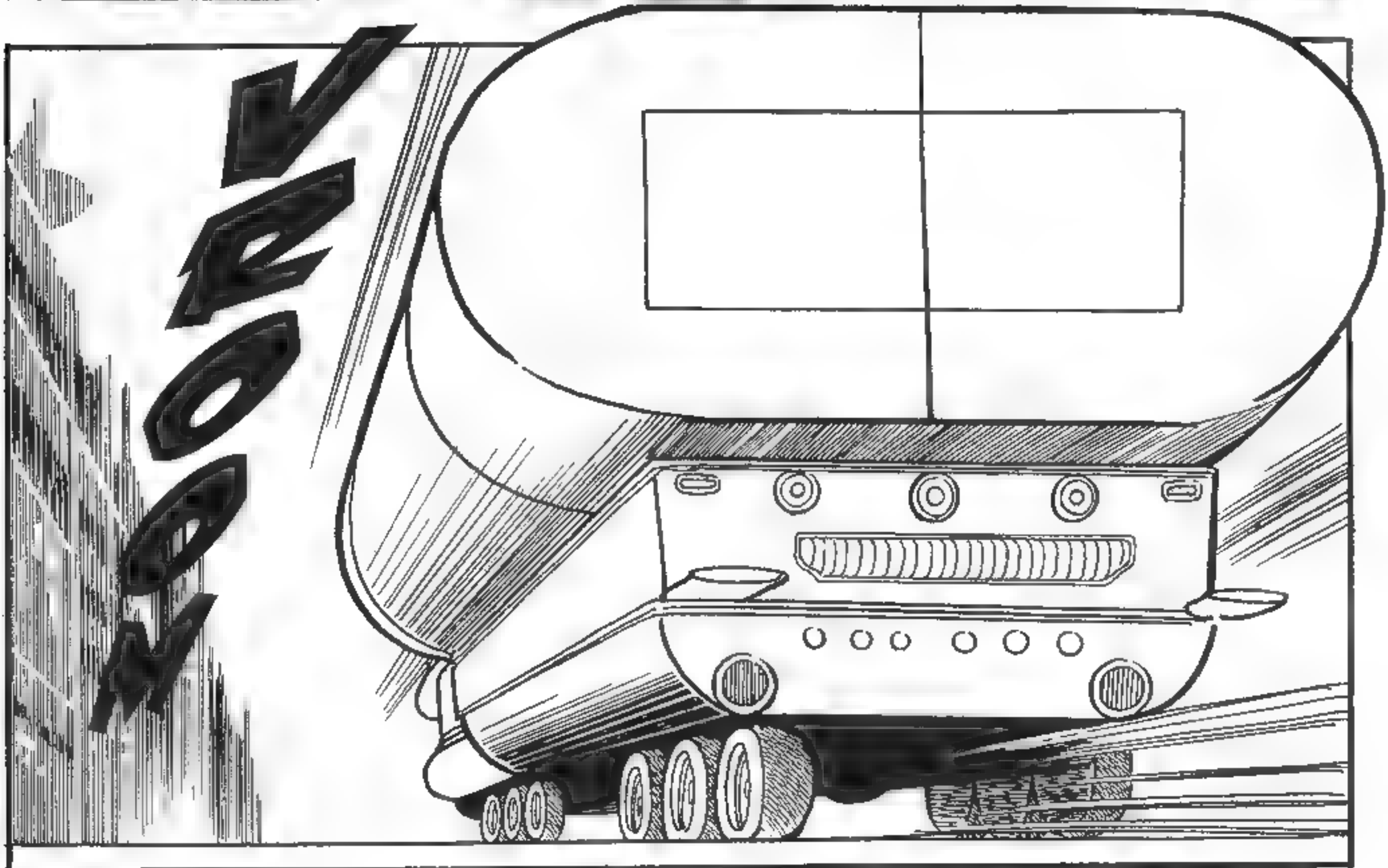
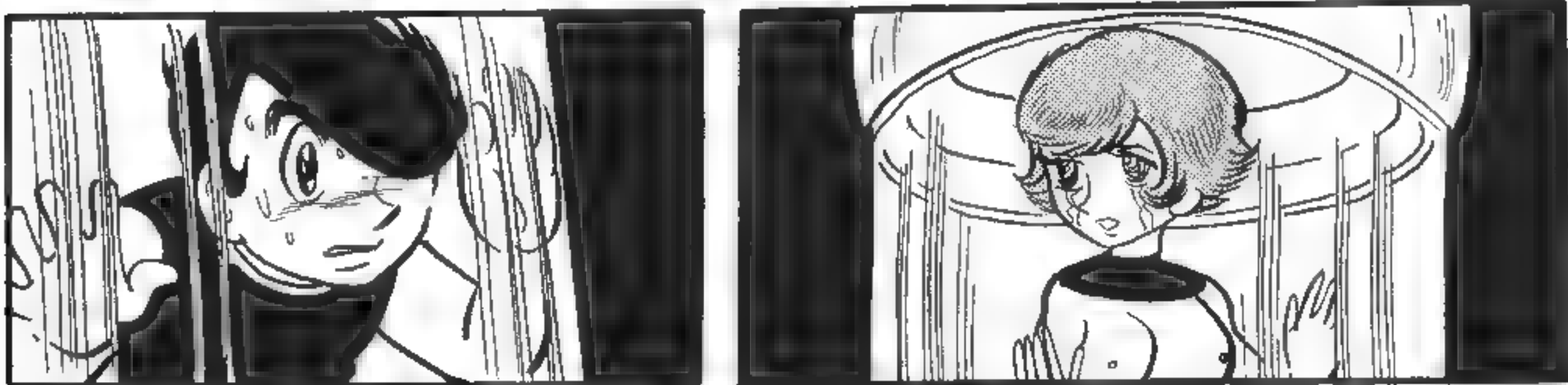
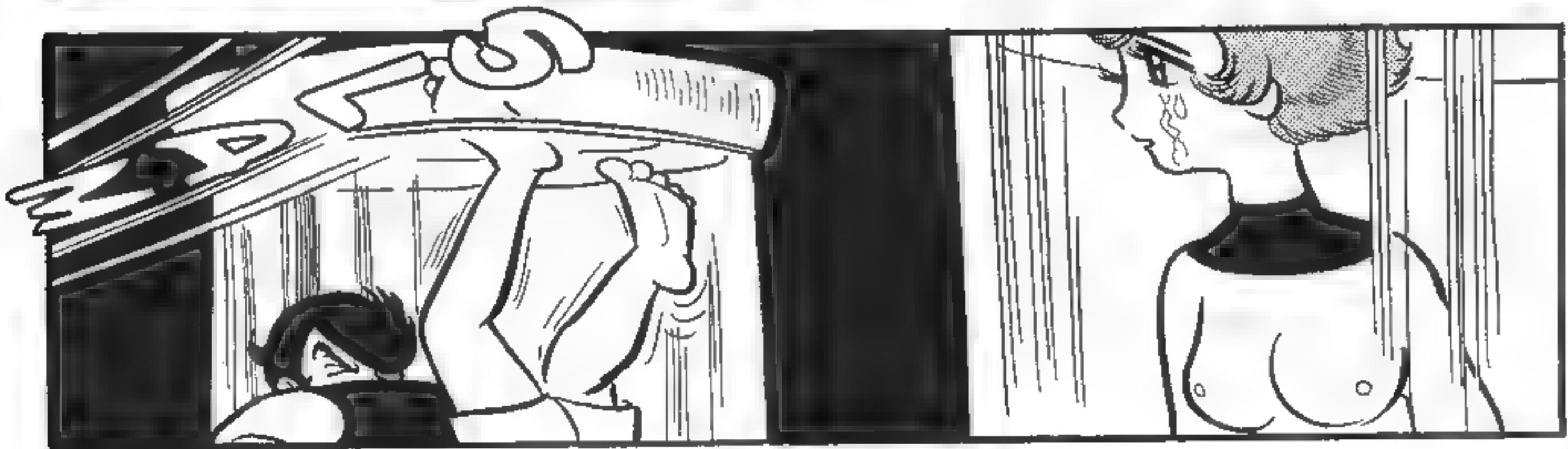


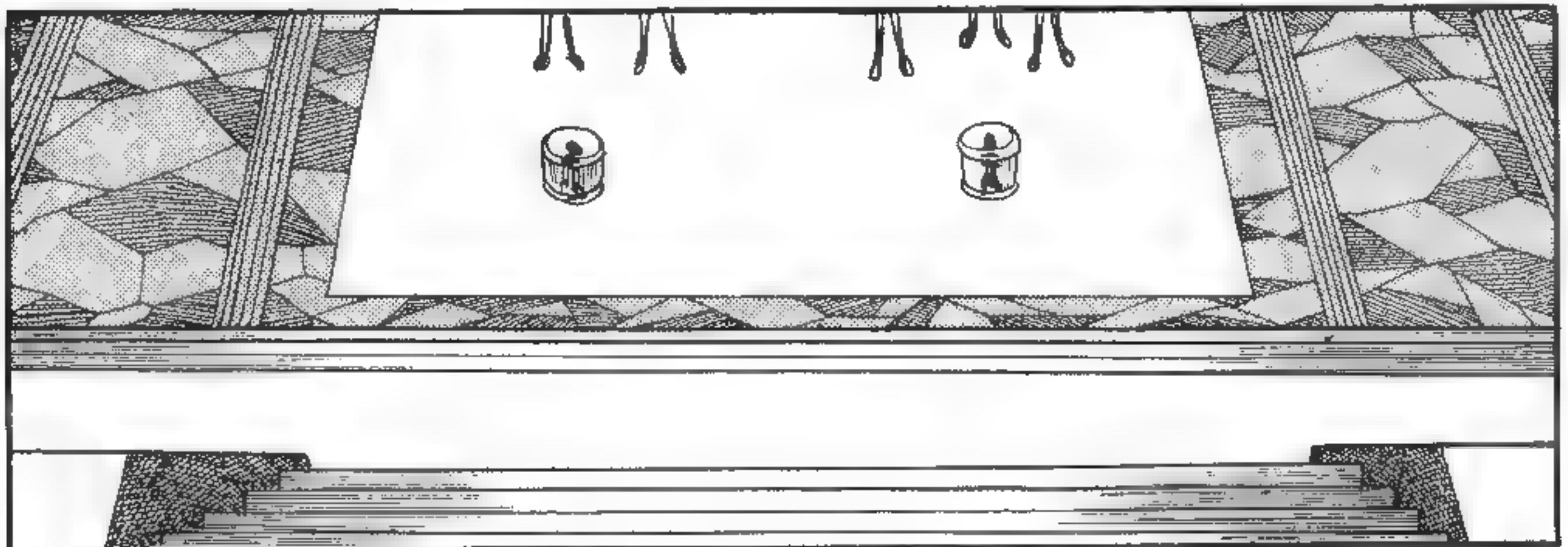
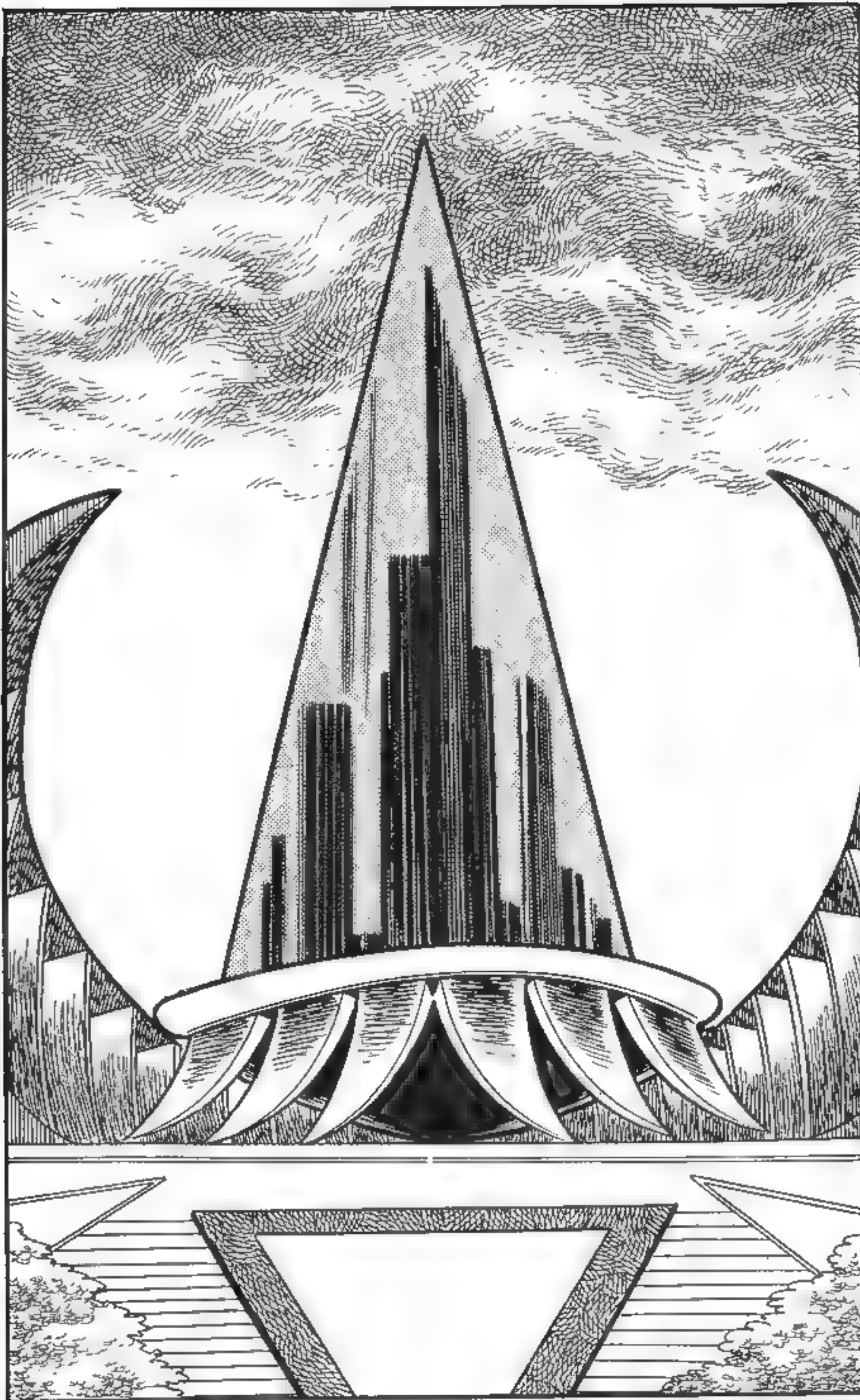


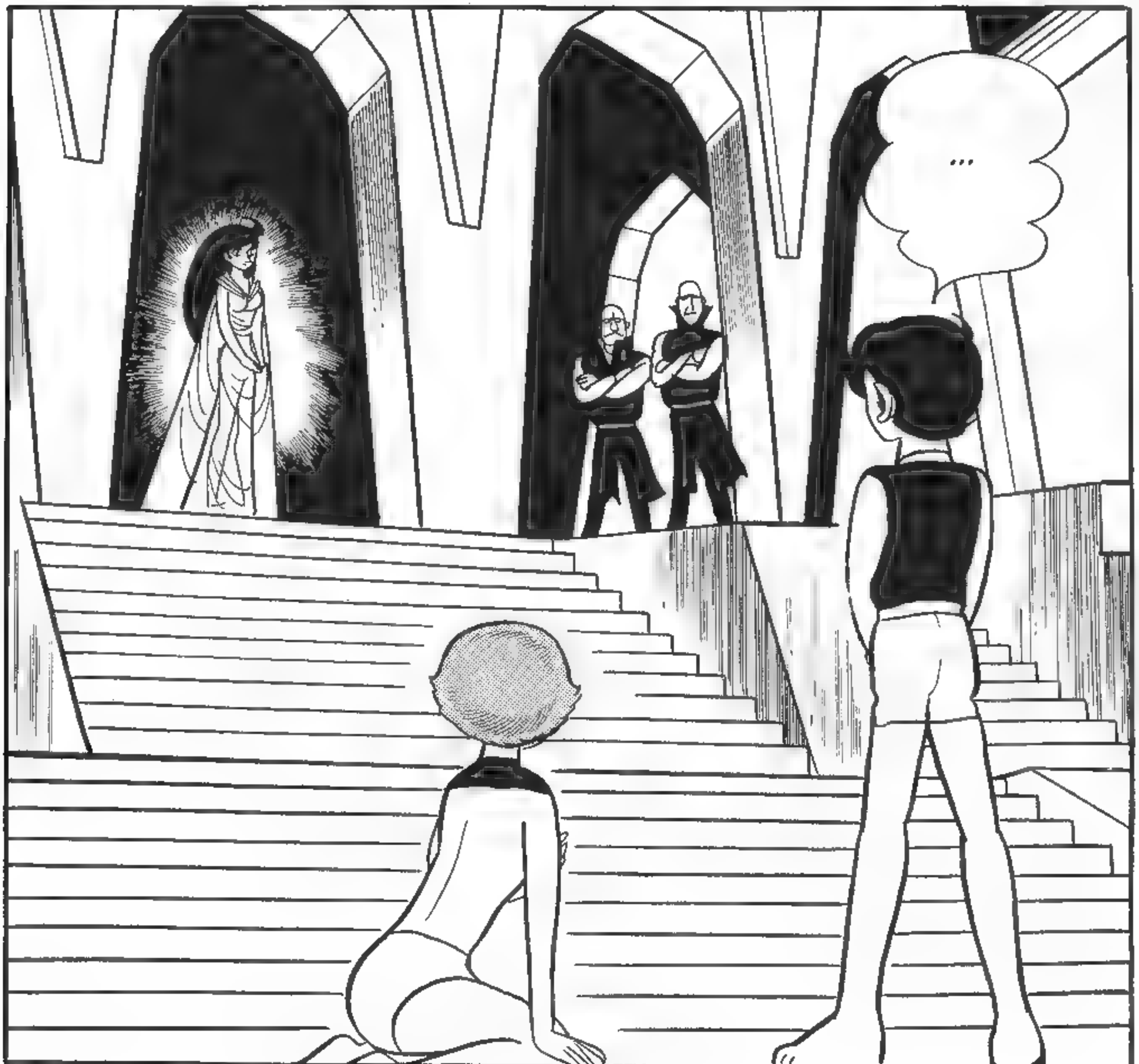
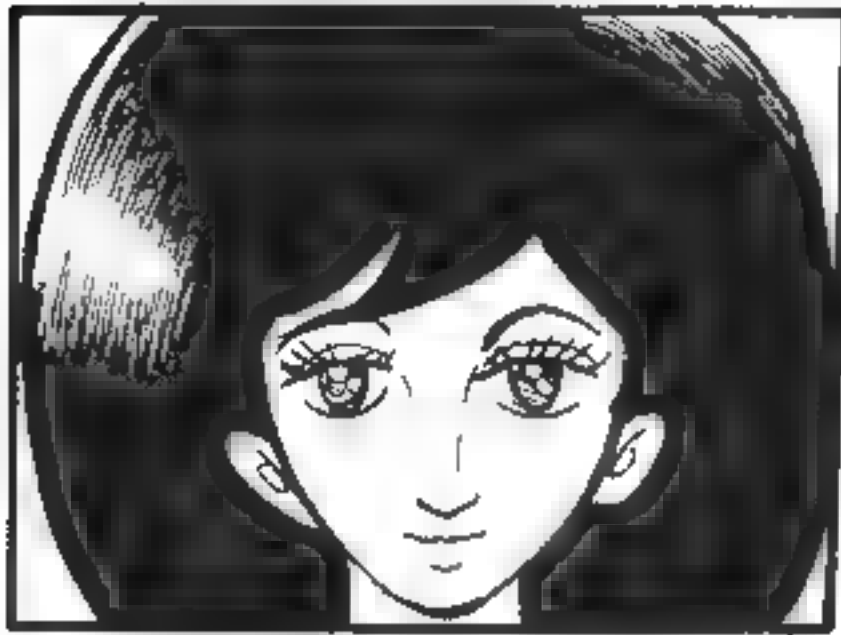


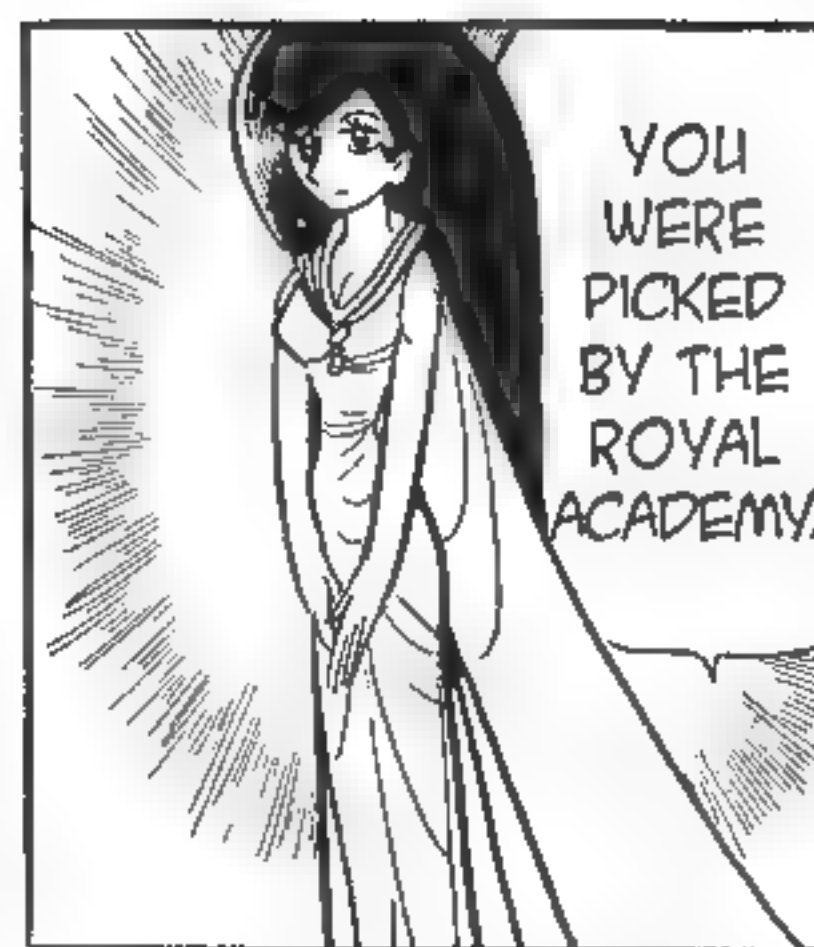


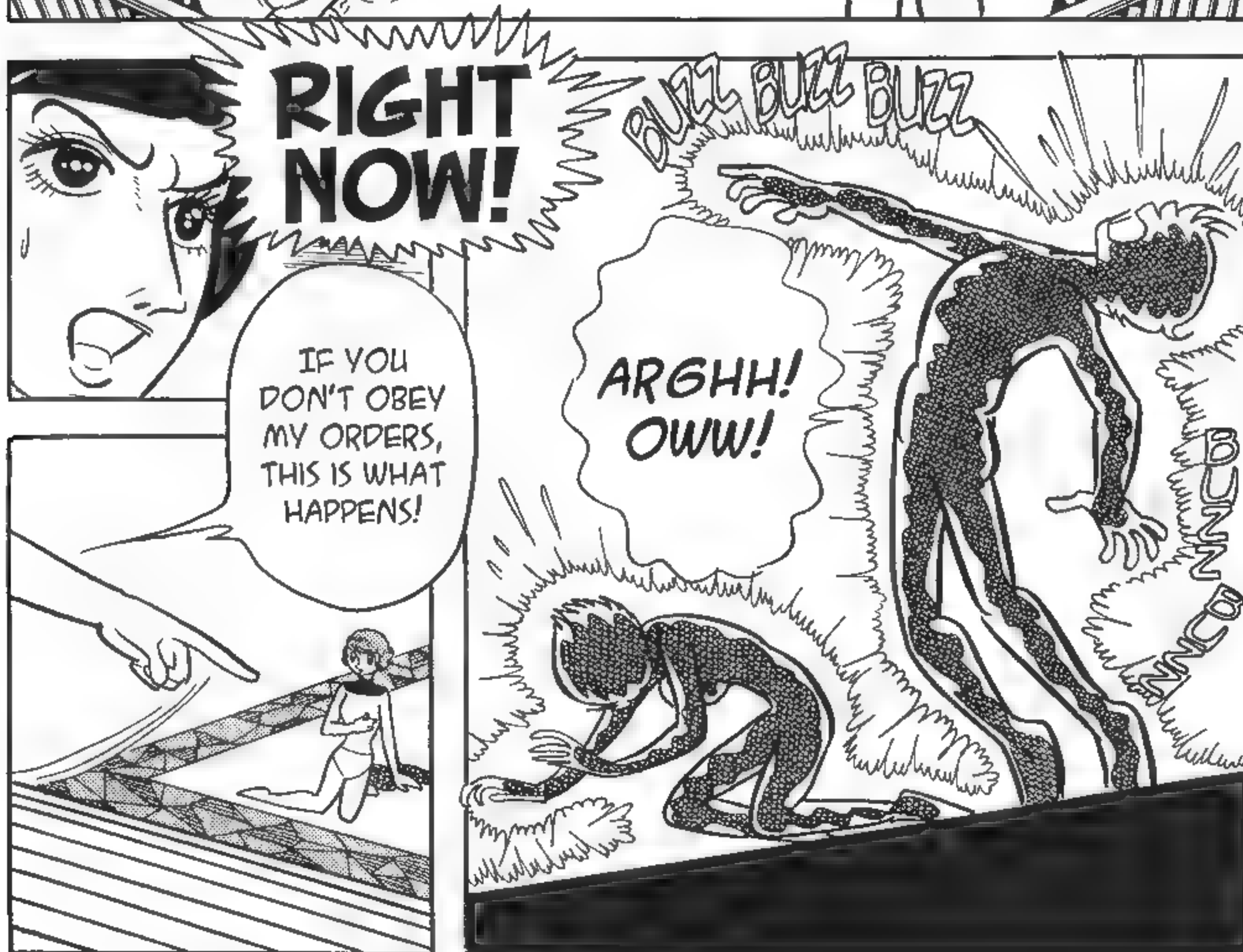


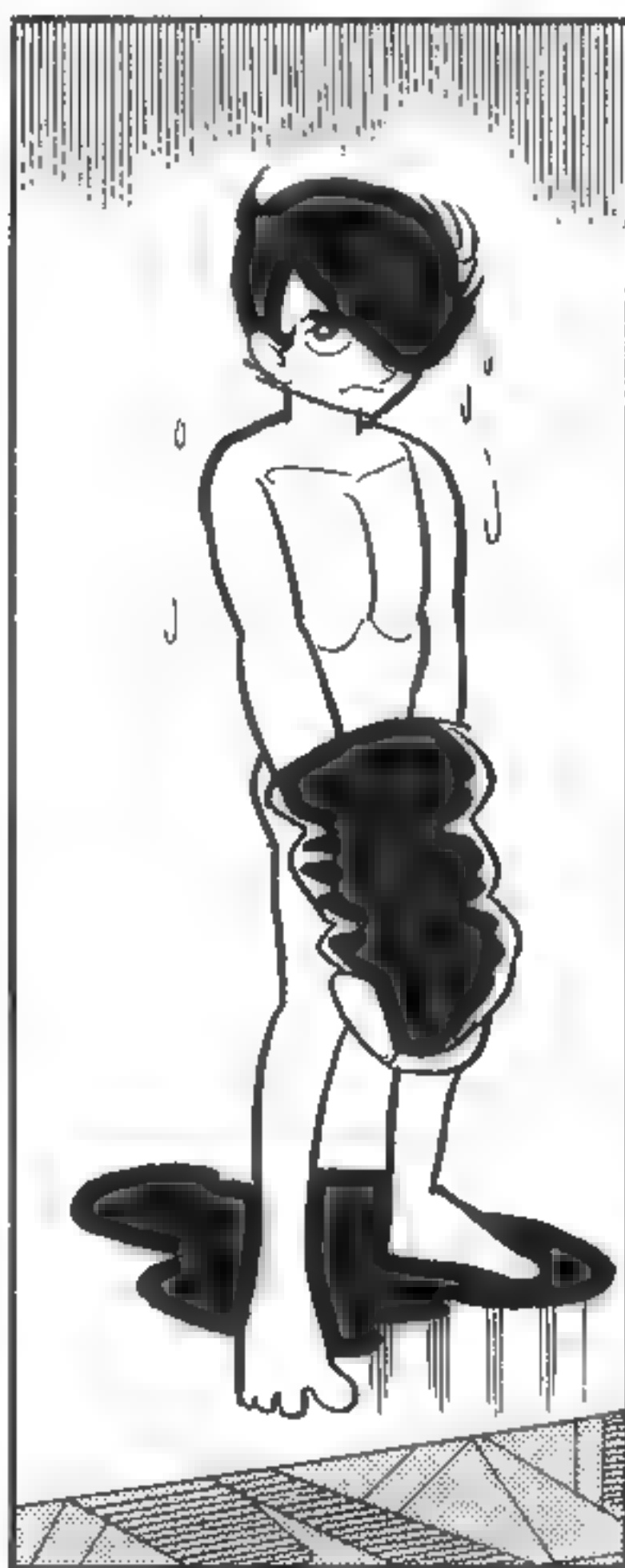
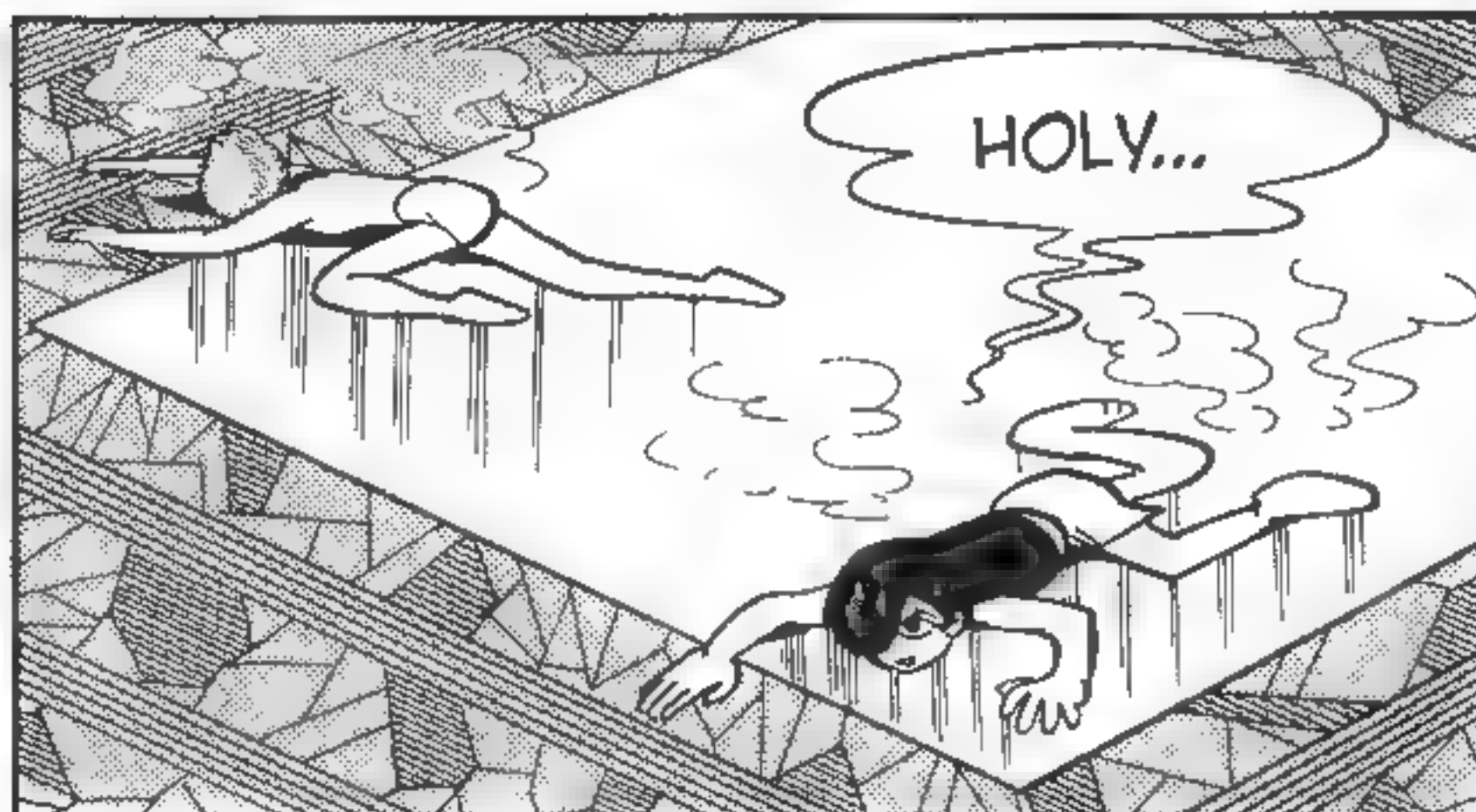


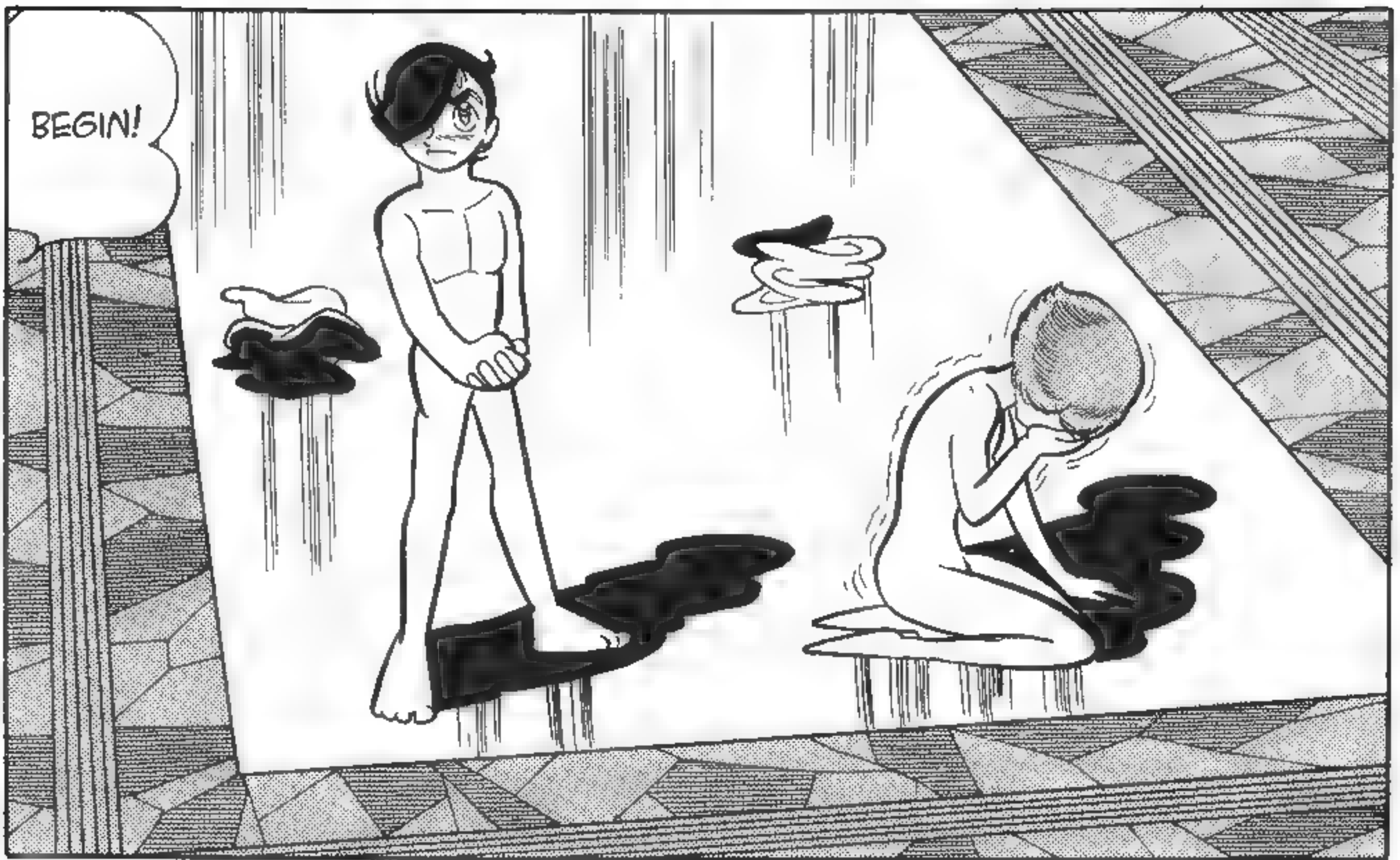












DON'T JUST
LOUNGE THERE!
DO YOU
WANT TO BE
PUNISHED
AGAIN?





KEEP QUIET
AND DO
AS I SAY.
WE'LL FOOL
HER WITH
KISSING...

HOW
LONG DO
YOU PLAN
TO KEEP
KISSING?

I'VE
SEEN
ENOUGH
OF THAT
ALREADY.

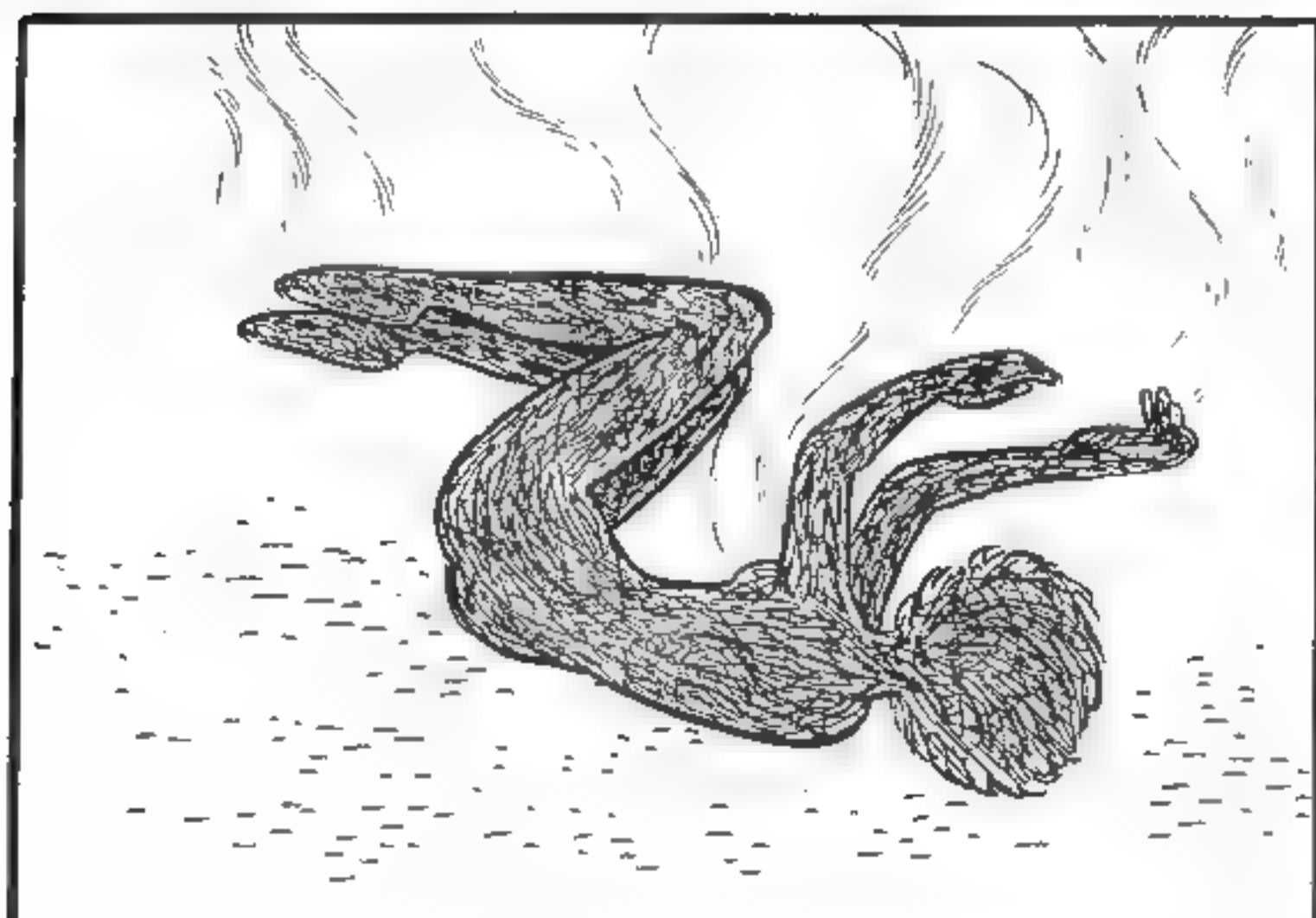
YOU'RE
LIKE
ROBOTS,
JUST
STANDING
THERE...

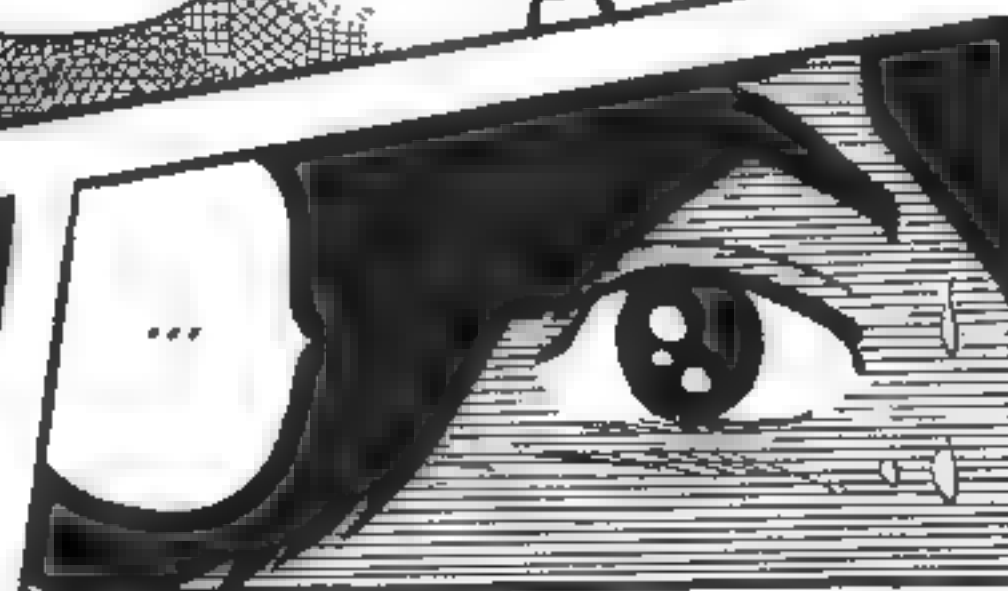
EVEN
ROBOTS
CAN
MIMIC
THAT
KIND OF
THING!

I WISH TO
SEE THE ACT
OF LOVE!

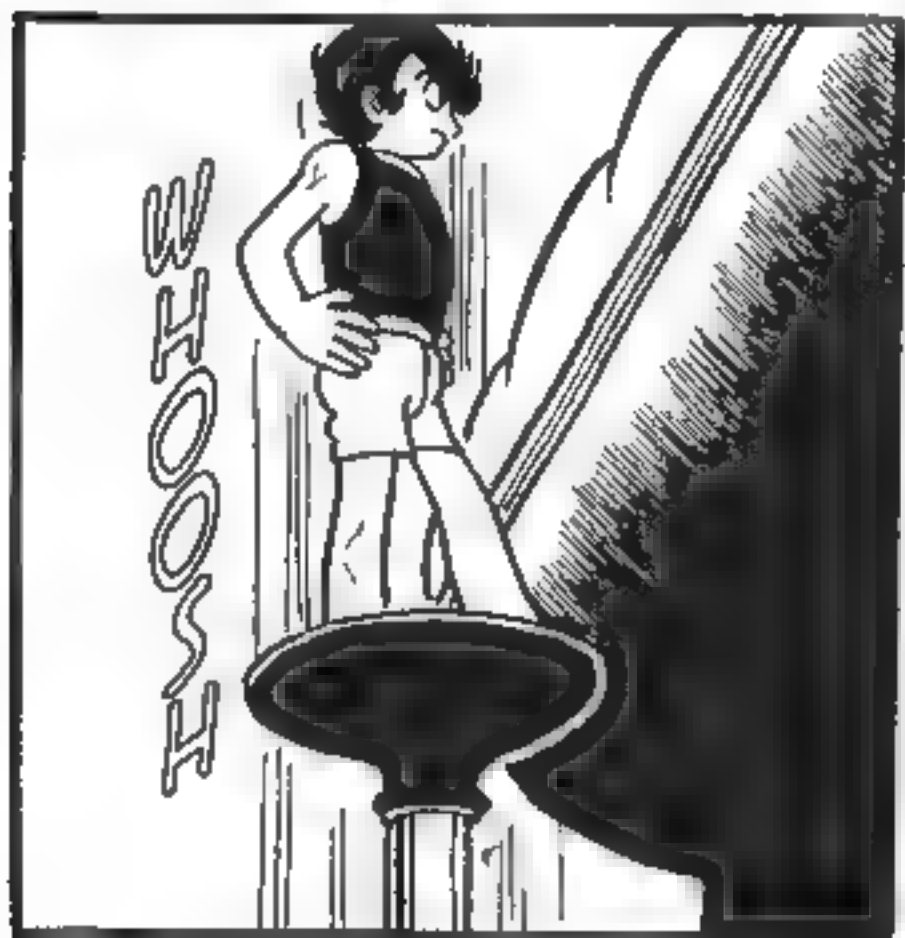
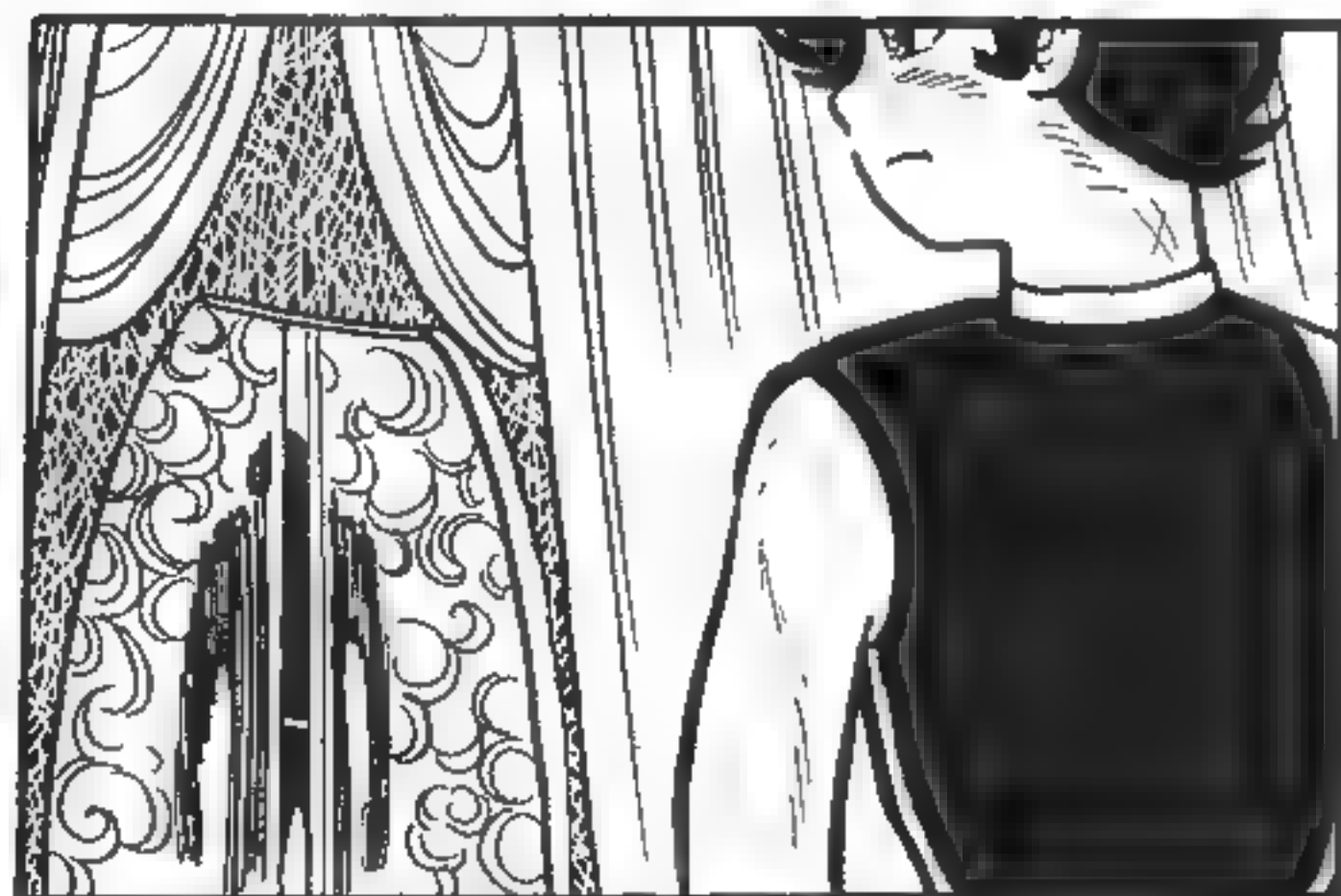
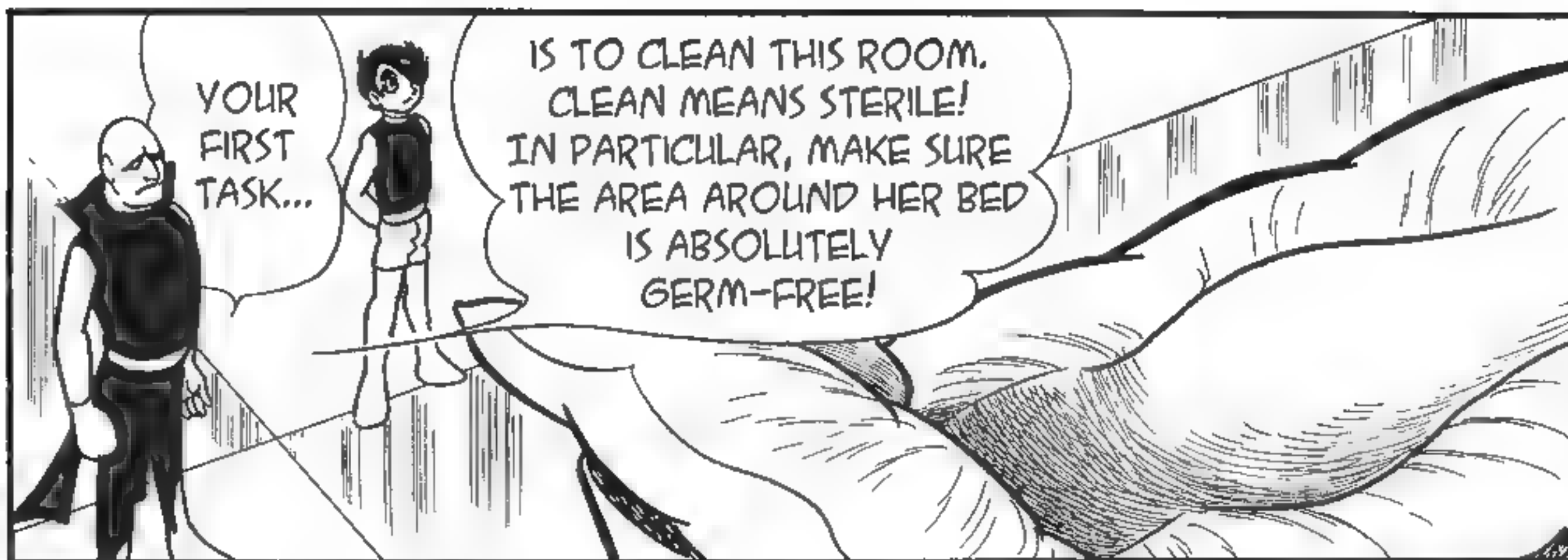
SHOW
ME HOW
HUMANS
PRODUCE
BABIES!

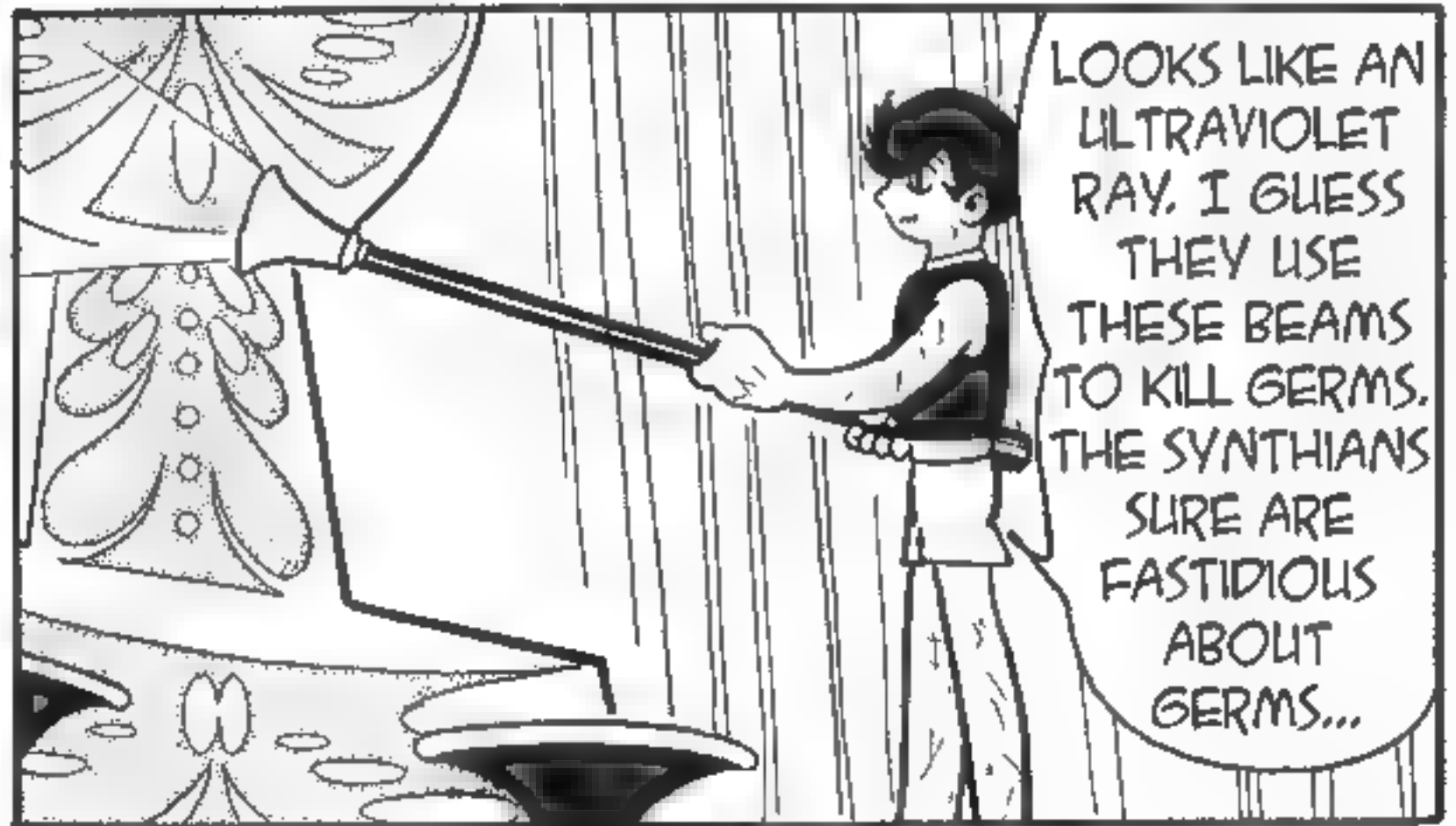
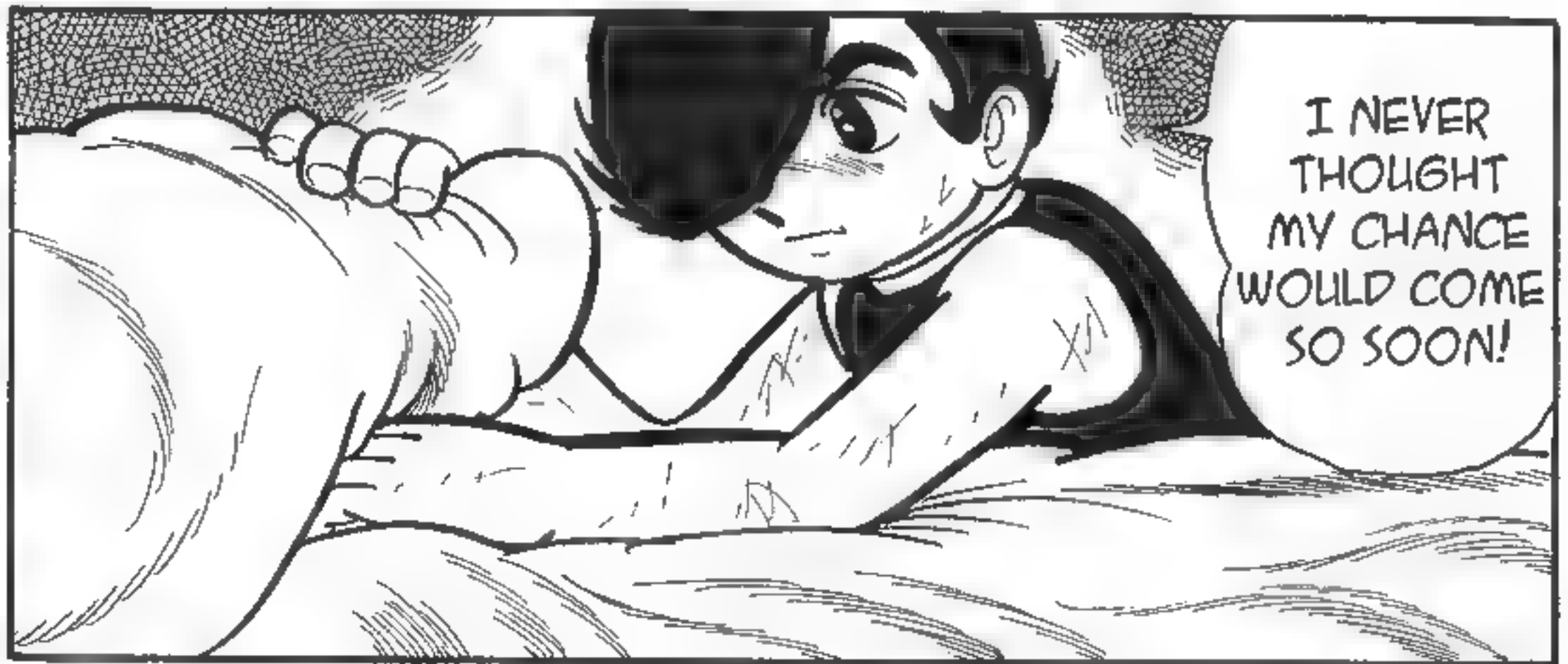
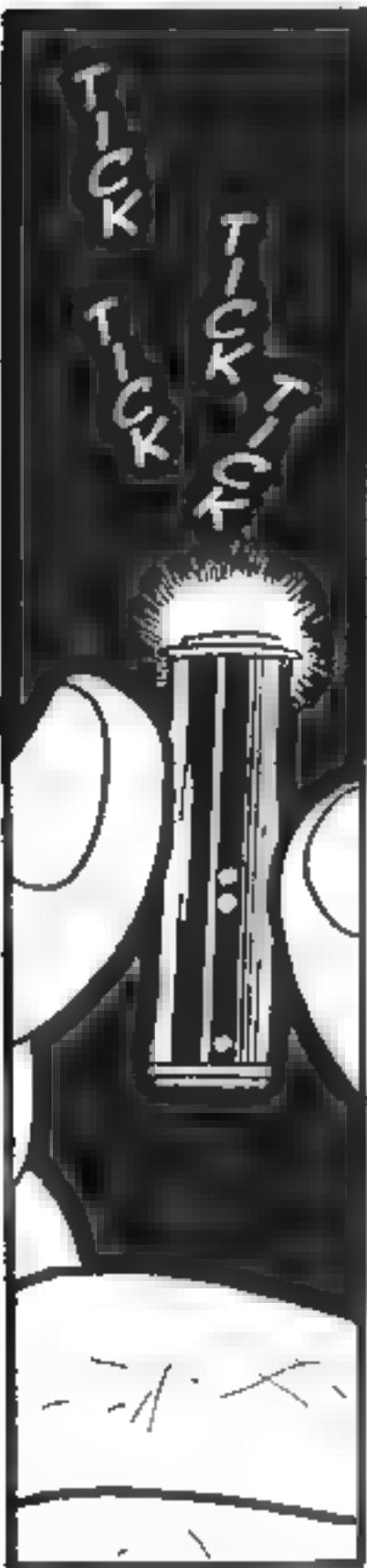
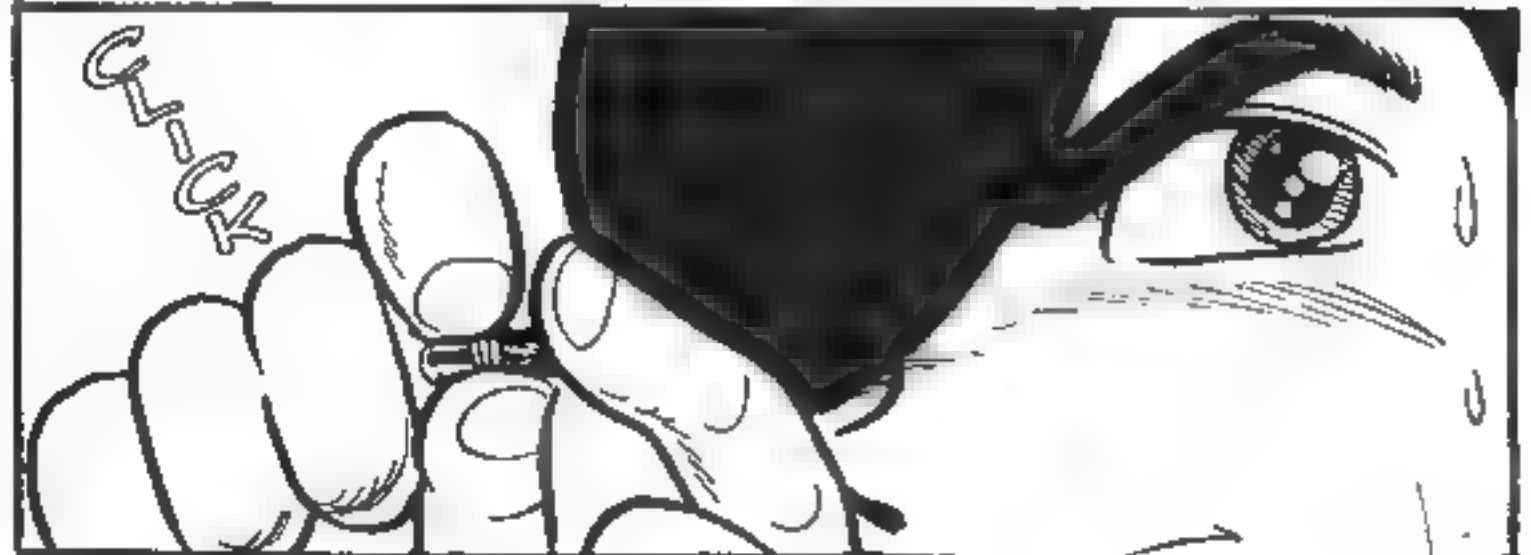
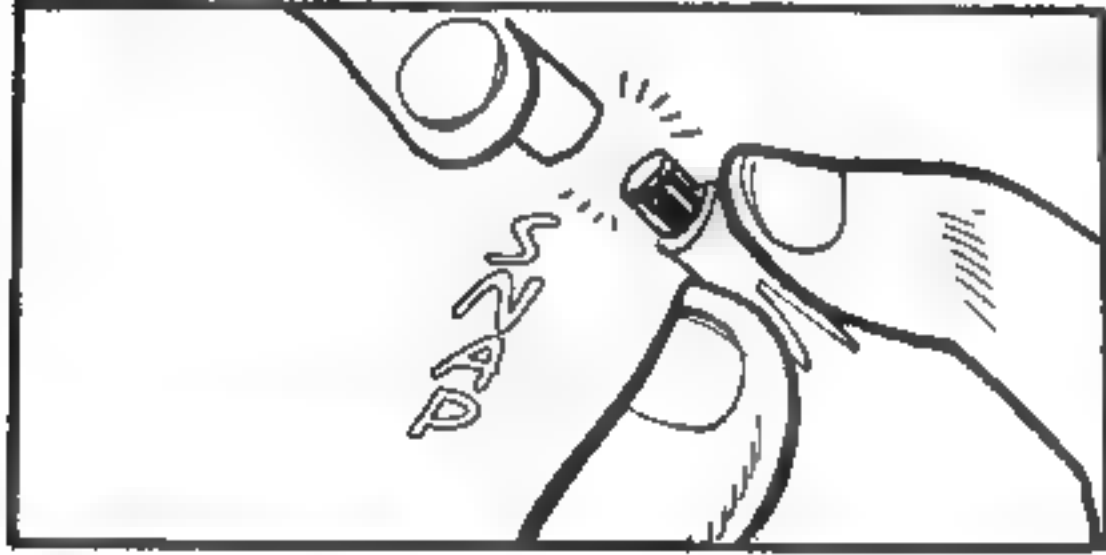
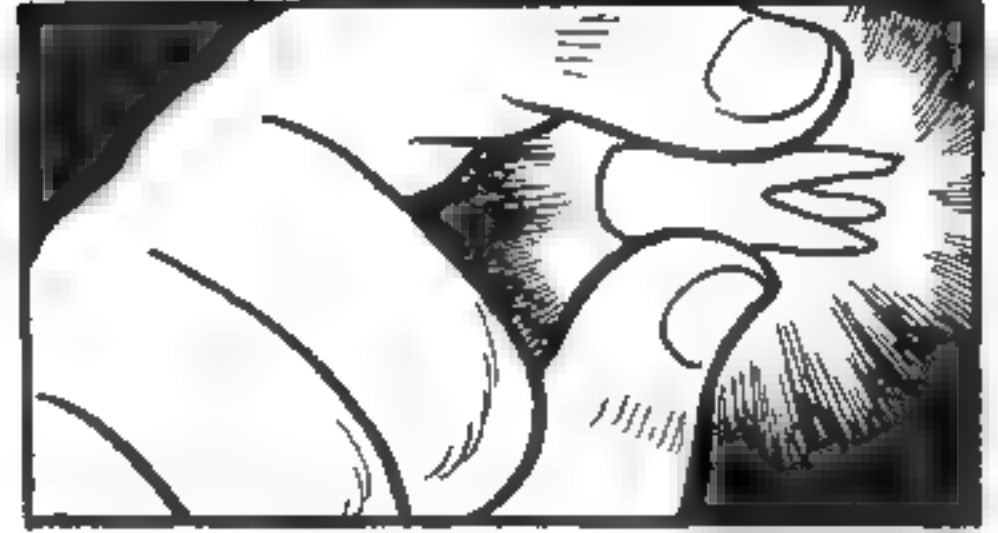
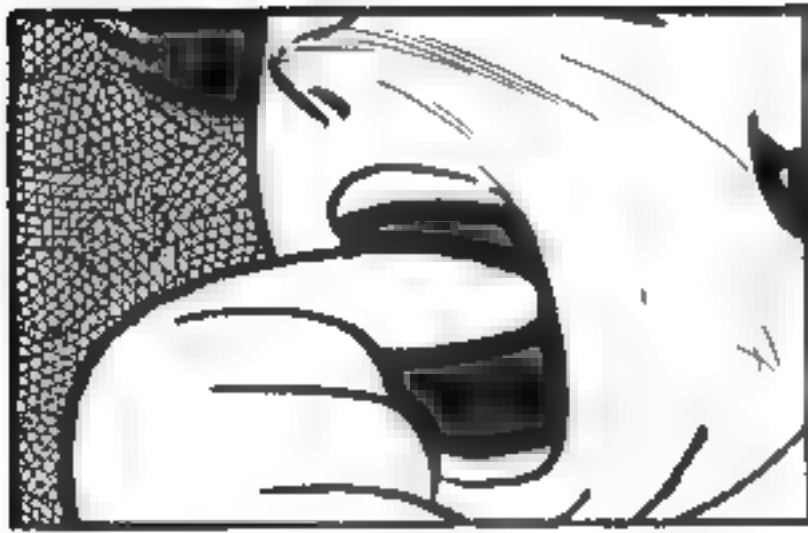
I'LL
BET THE
SYNTHIANS
HAVE
NEVER
KISSED,
LET
ALONE
MADE
LOVE.

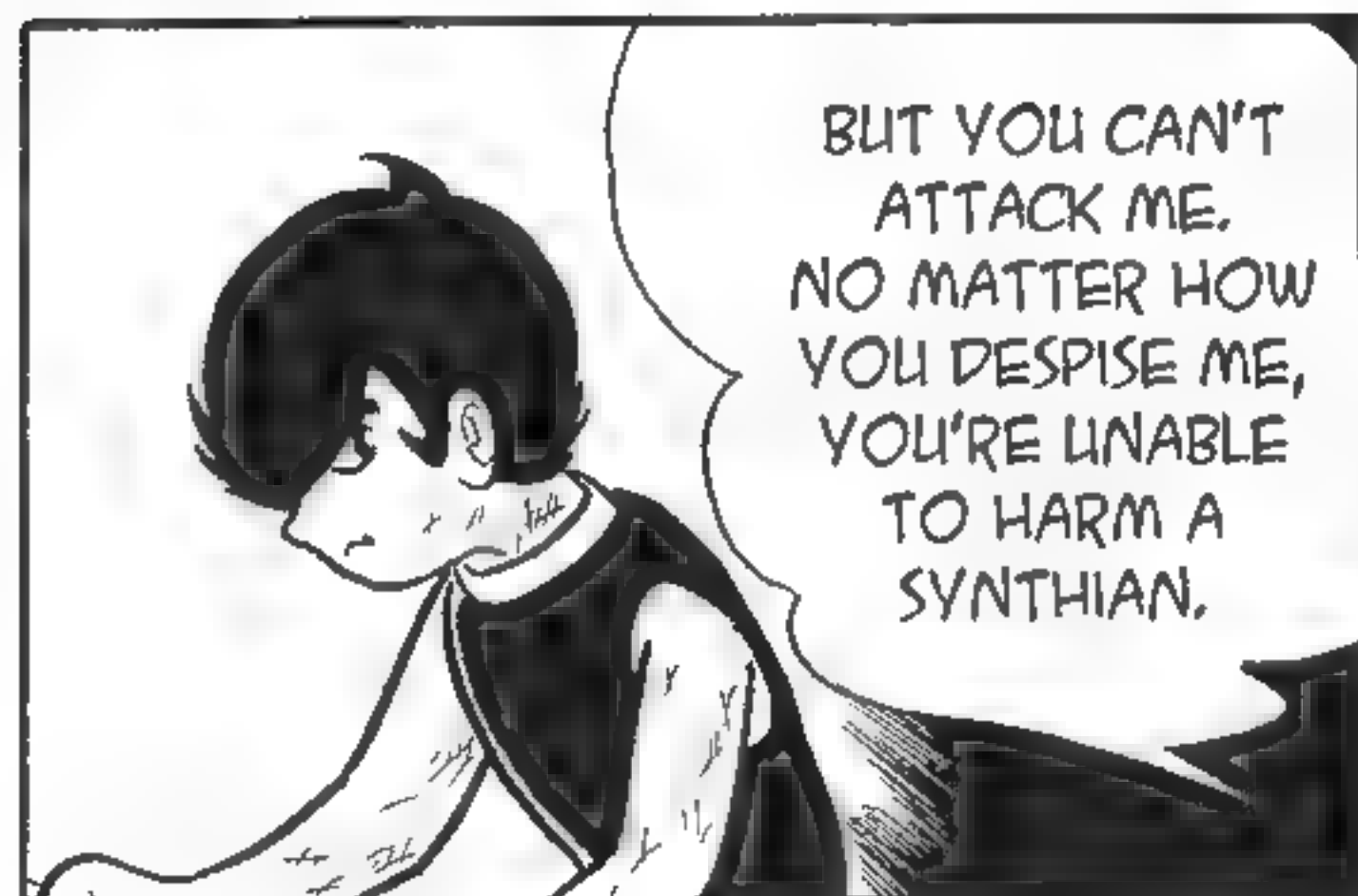
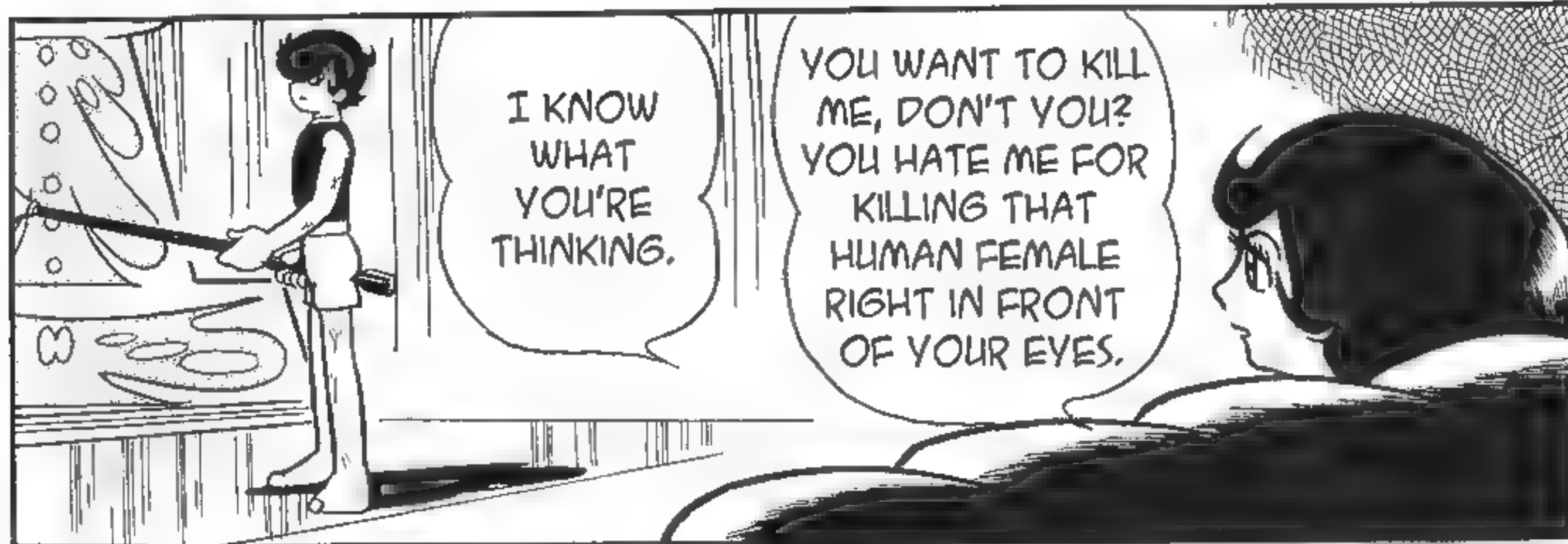




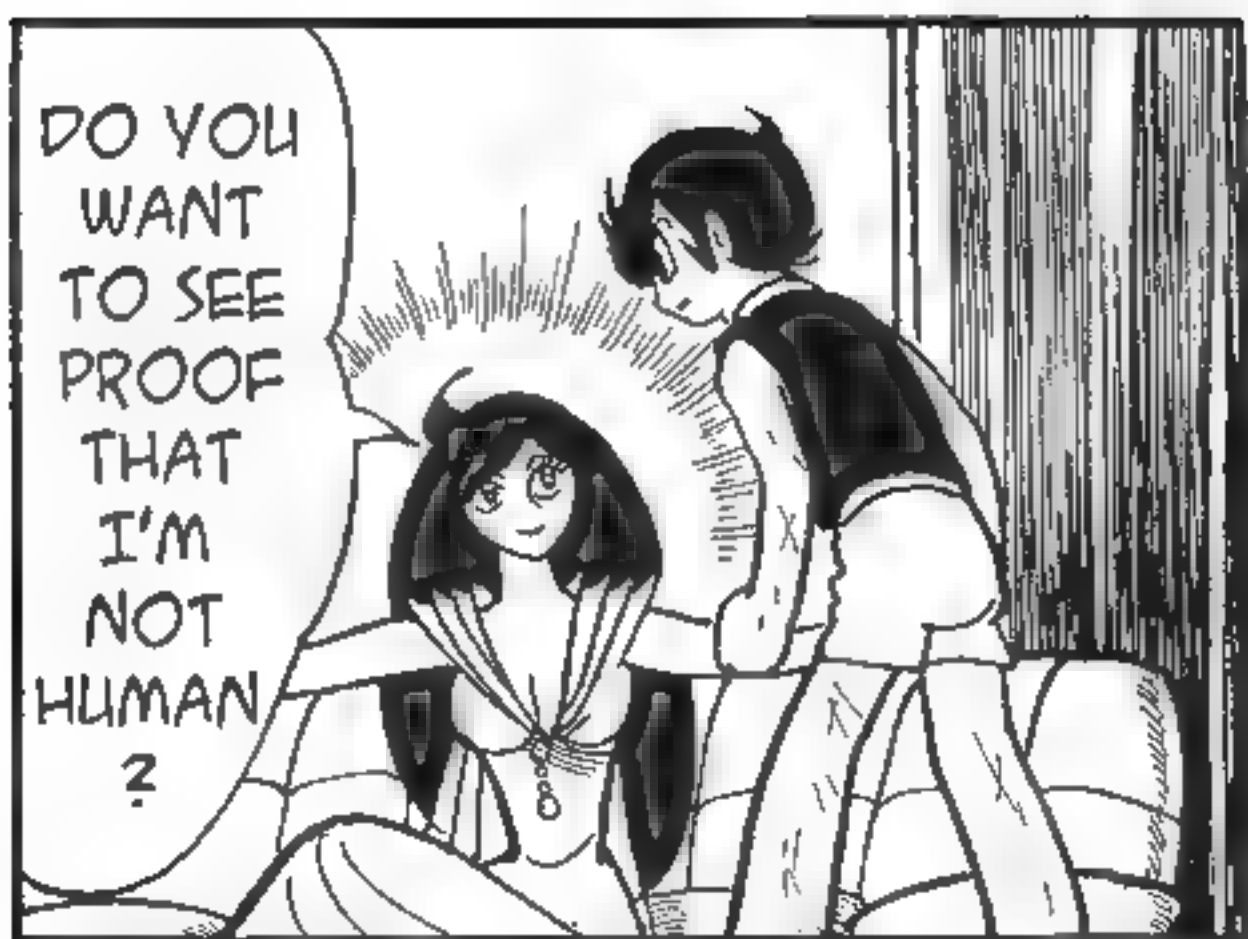


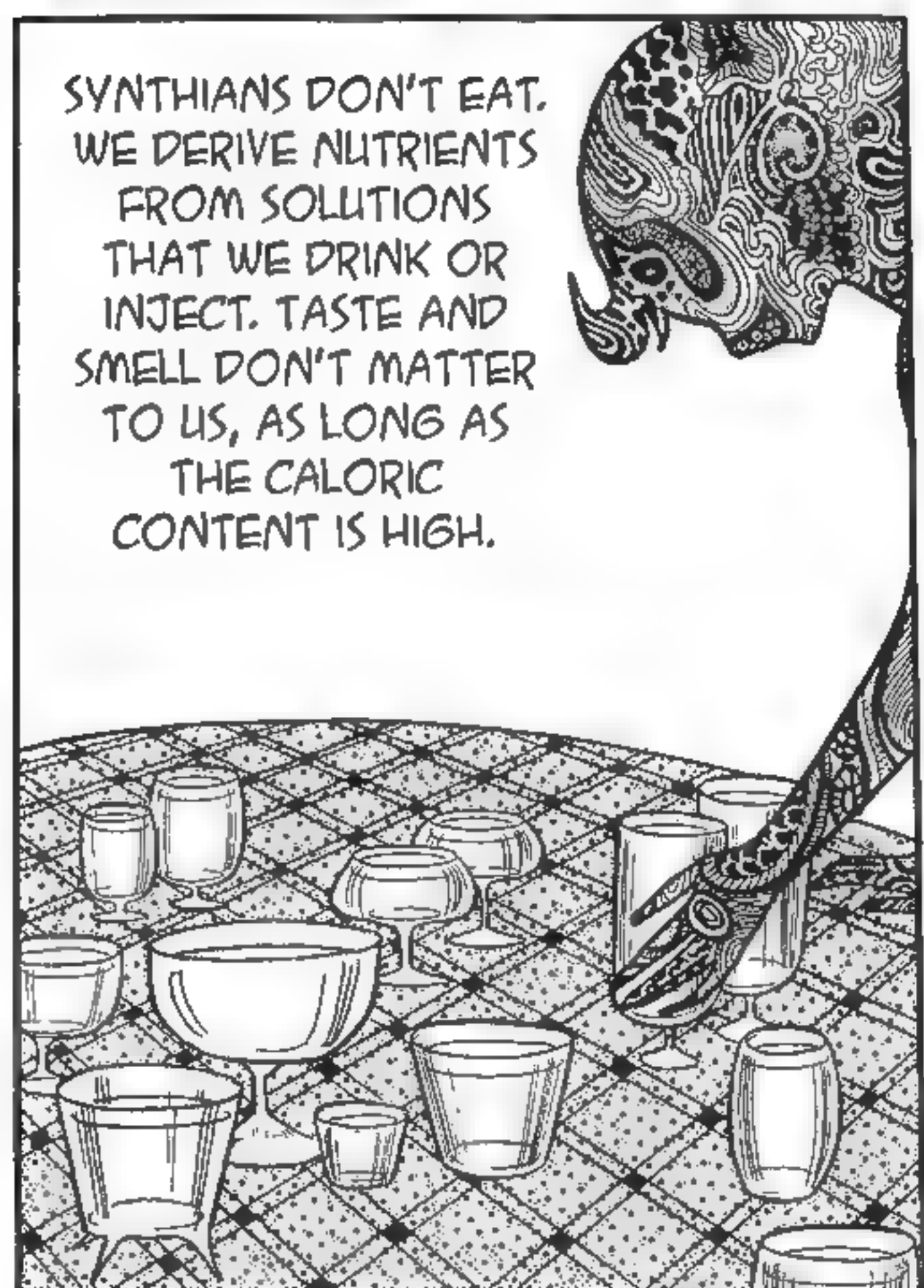














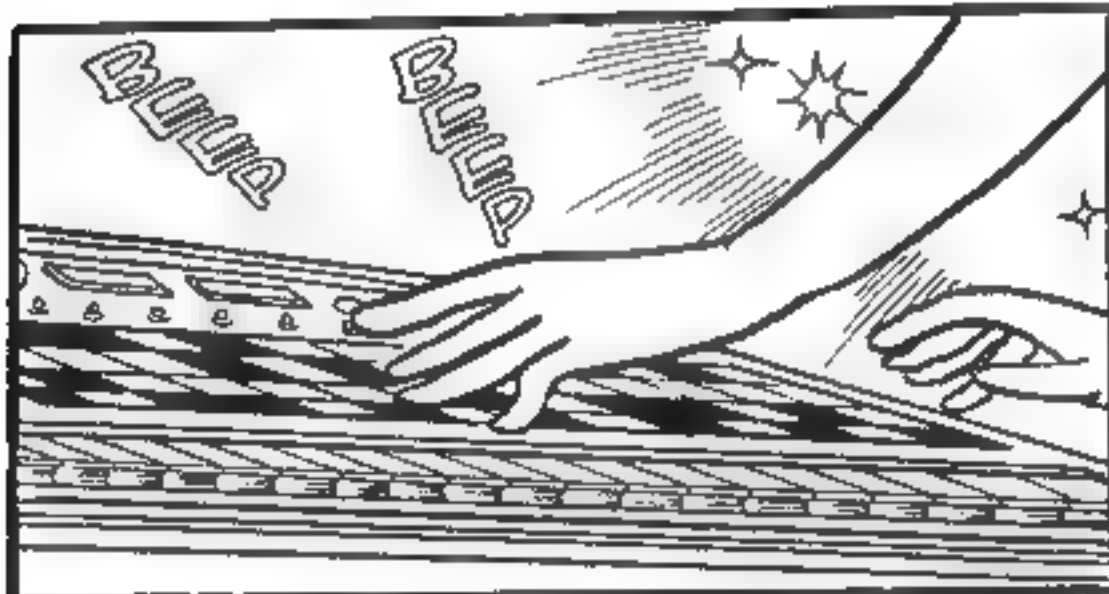
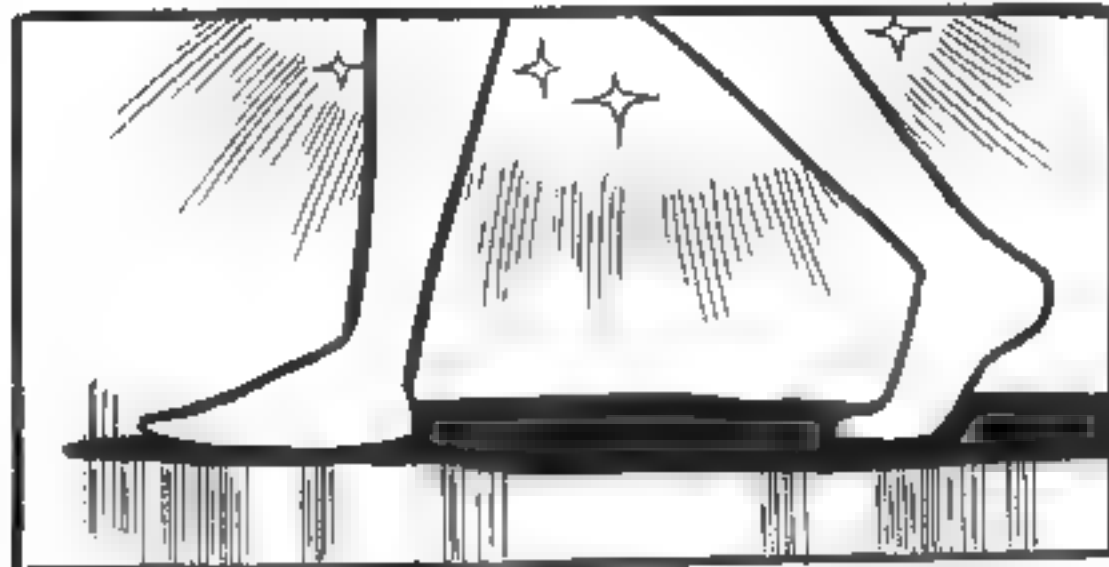
BECAUSE WE
DON'T BEAR
CHILDREN,
WE OF COURSE
DON'T NEED
GENITALS.



THEN WHY
DO YOU
LOOK JUST
LIKE A
HUMAN
WOMAN
I KNOW?



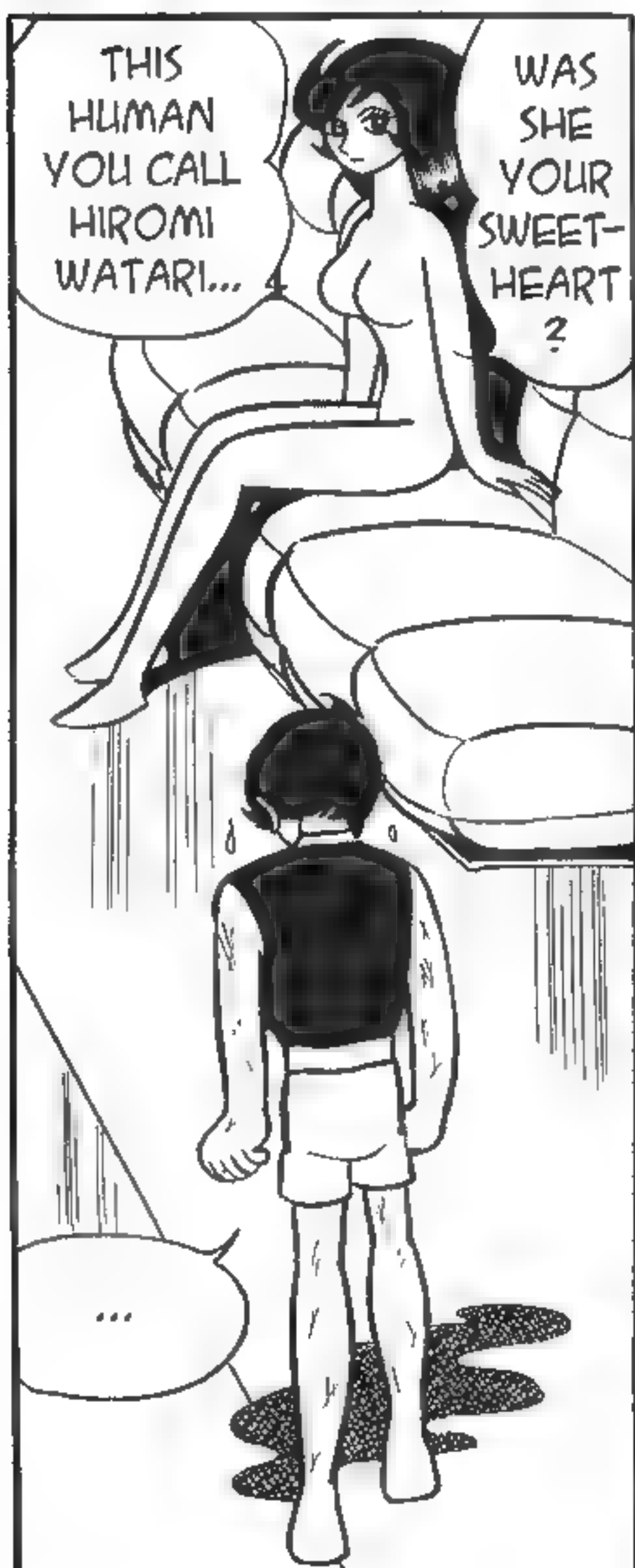
WHAT A
STUPID
QUESTION
!

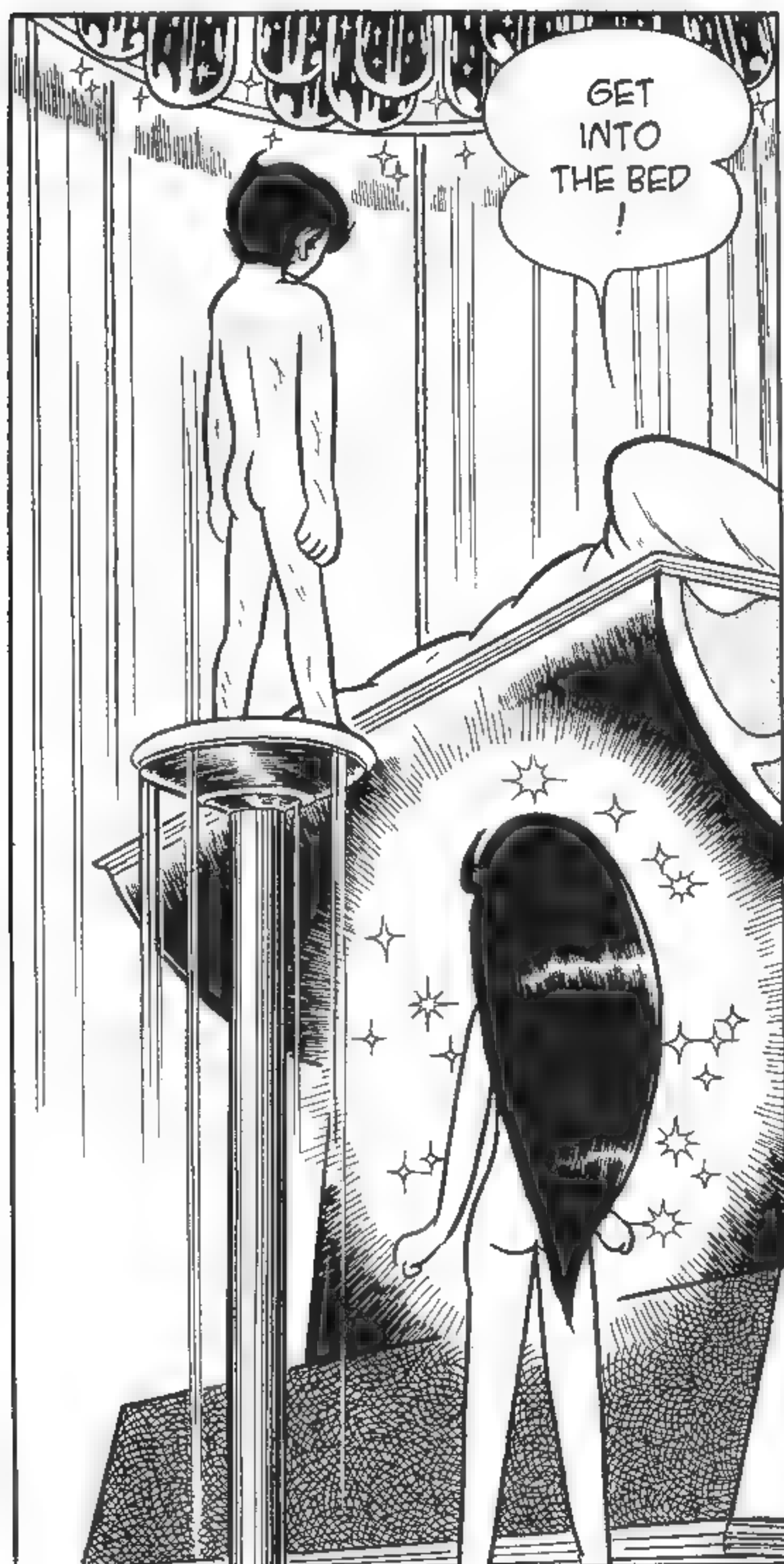


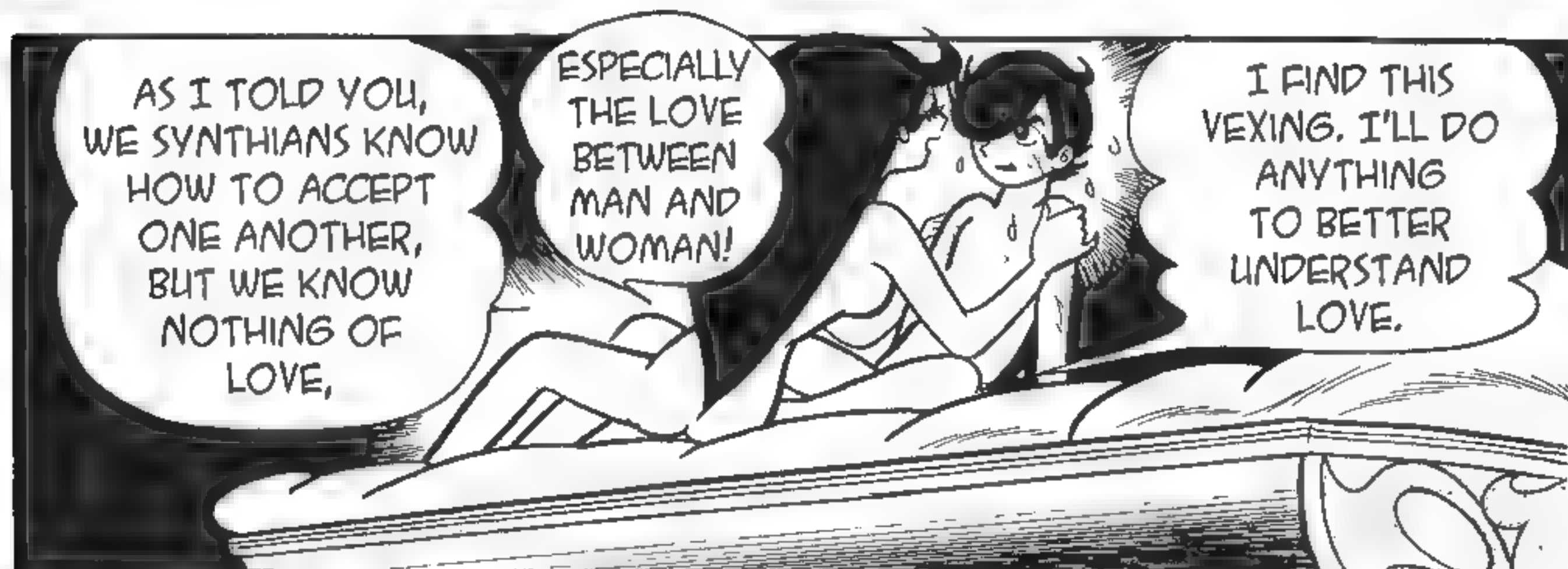
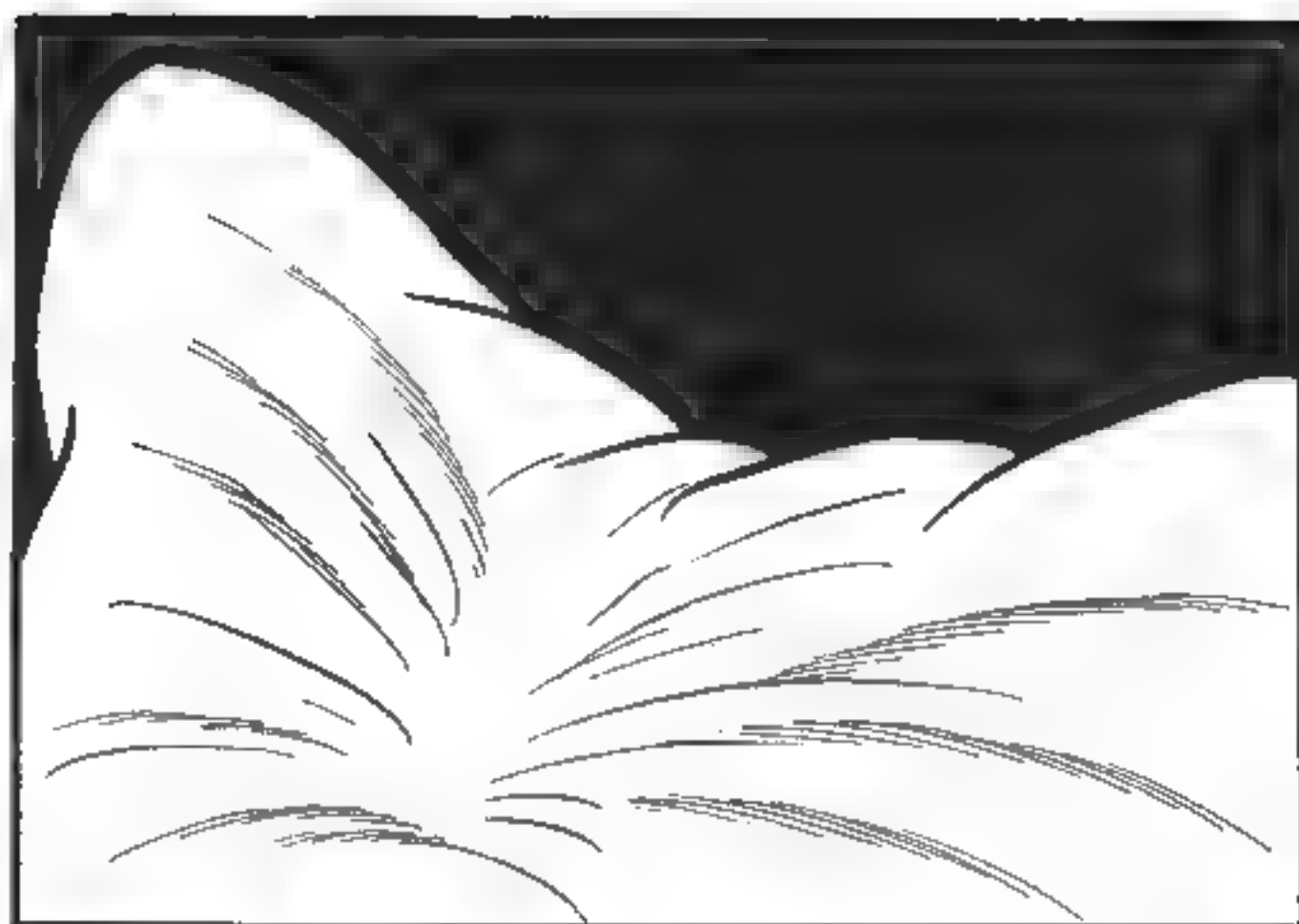
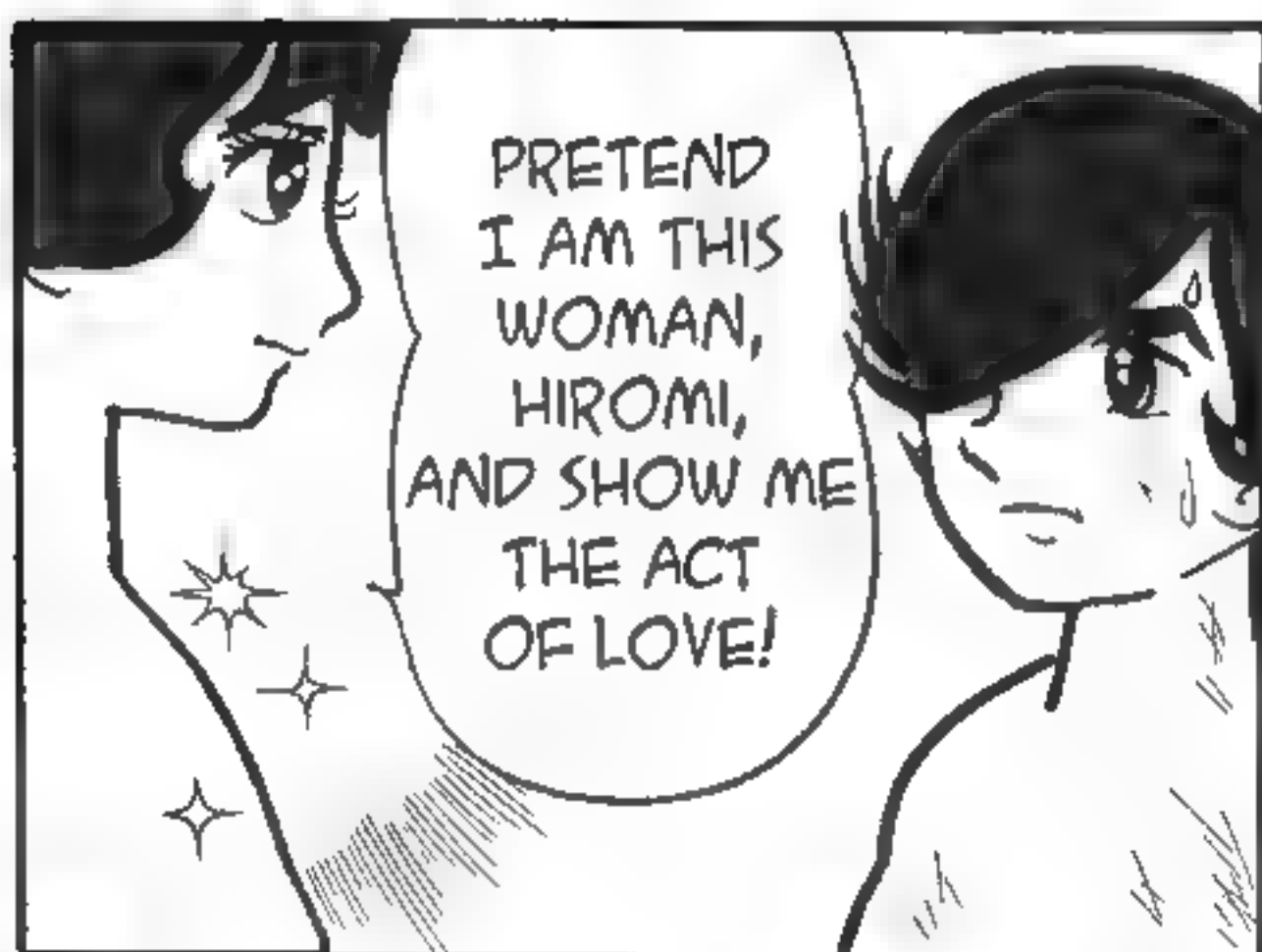
THE SCIENCE
ACADEMY HAS A
BILLION DIFFERENT
HUMAN FACES
RECORDED IN
ITS COMPUTER.

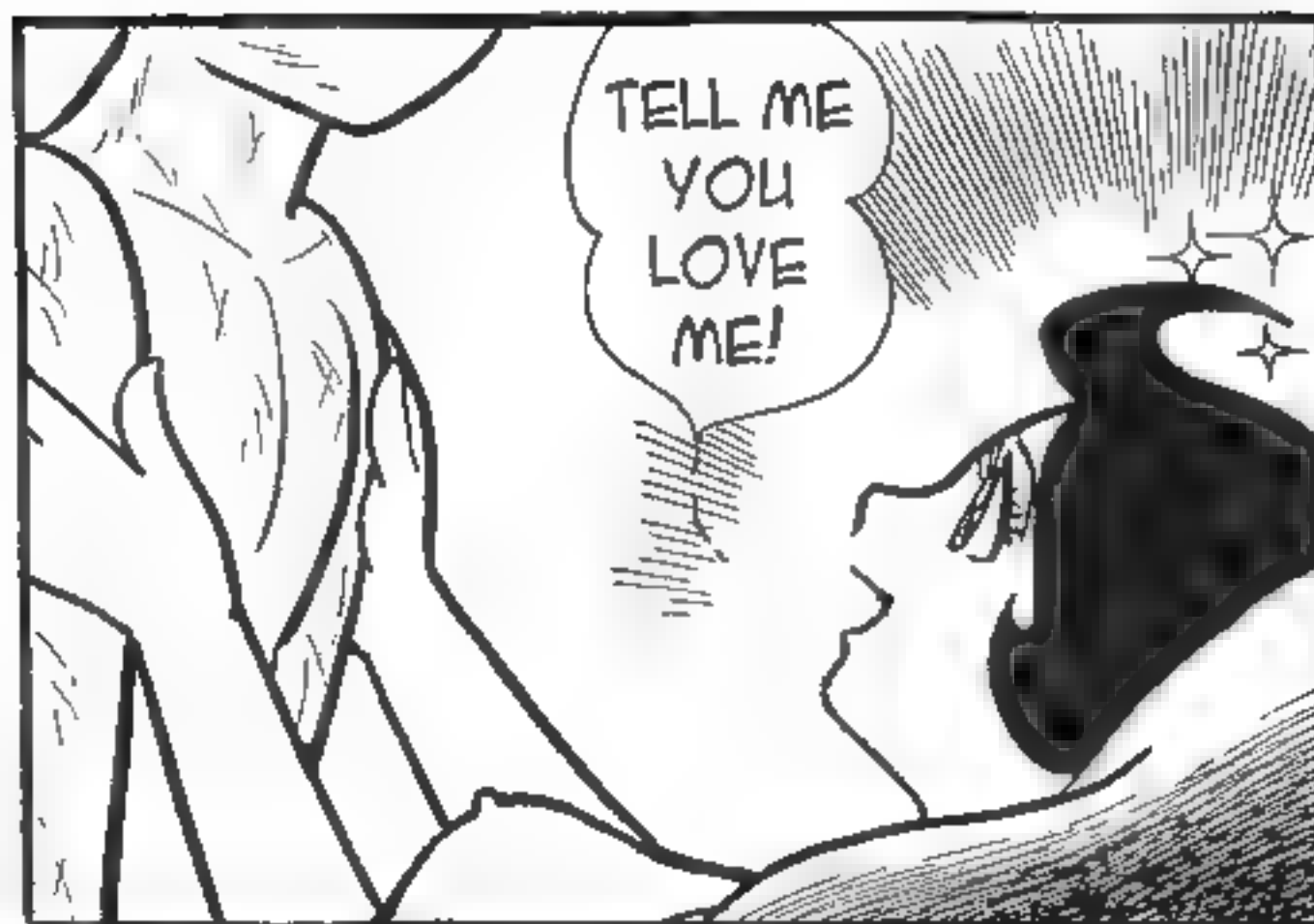
MY FACE
WAS SELECTED
FROM
AMONGST
THEM.

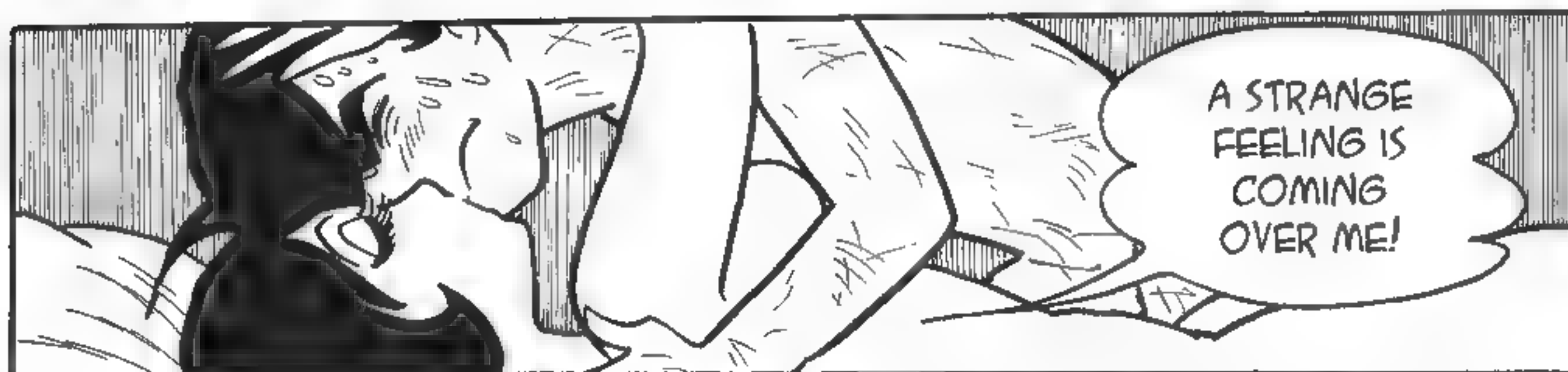
SEE?
THESE MODEL
FACES WERE ALL
CREATED FROM
THAT DATA.

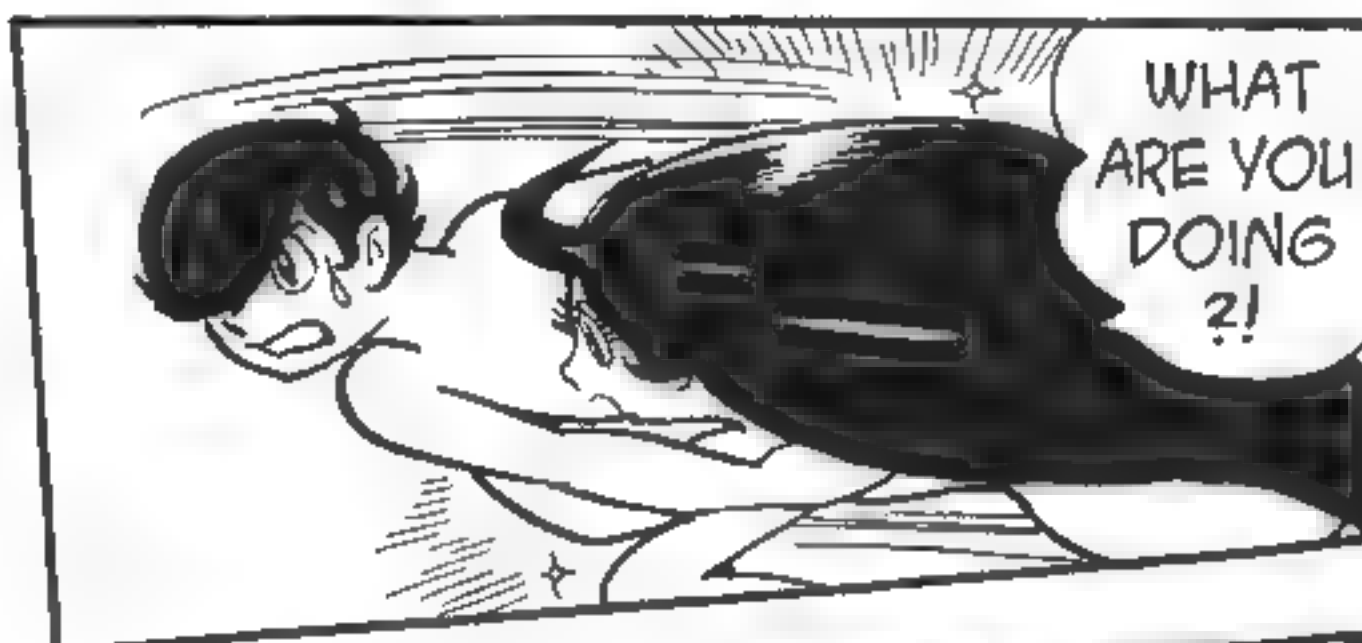


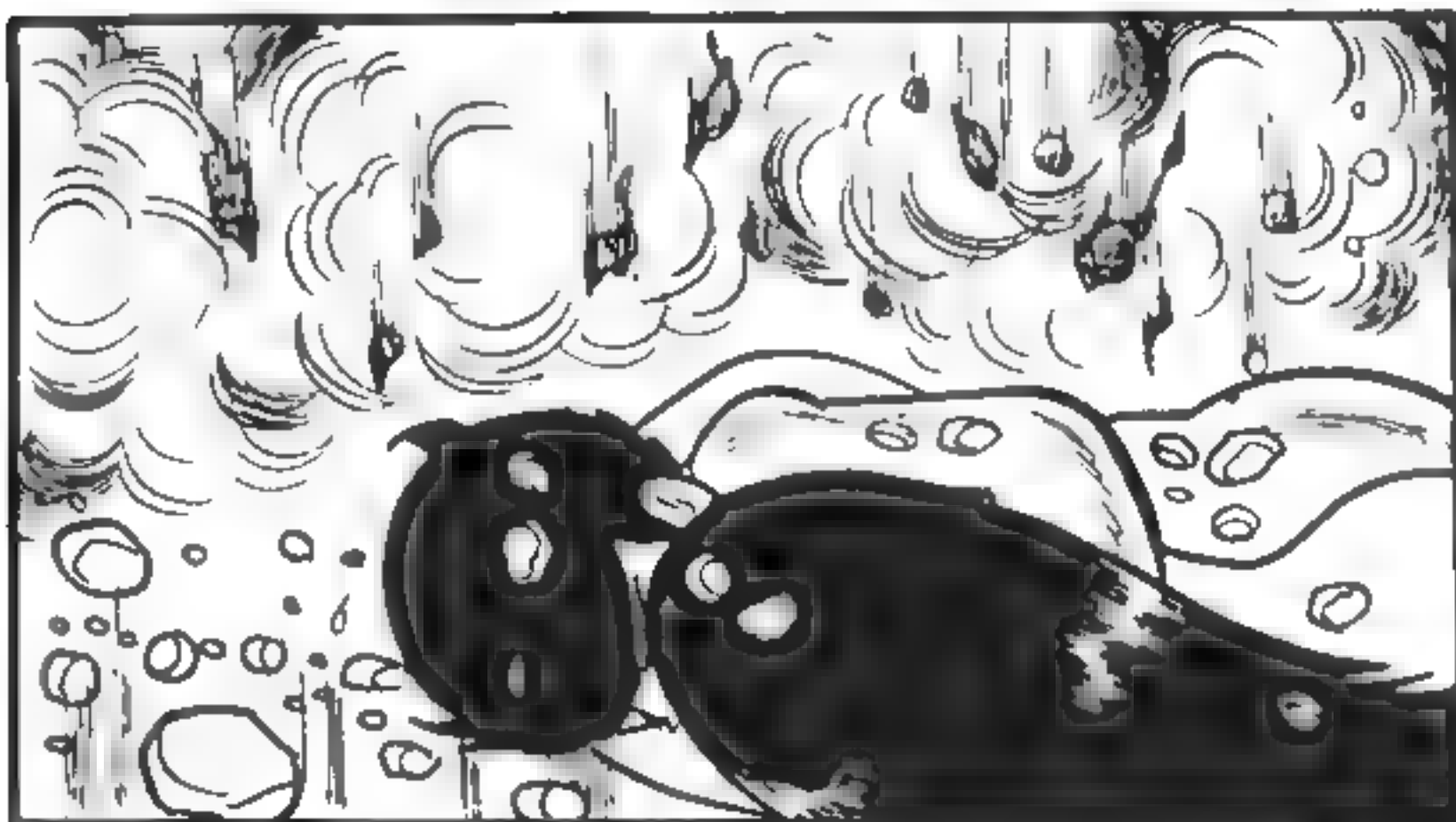




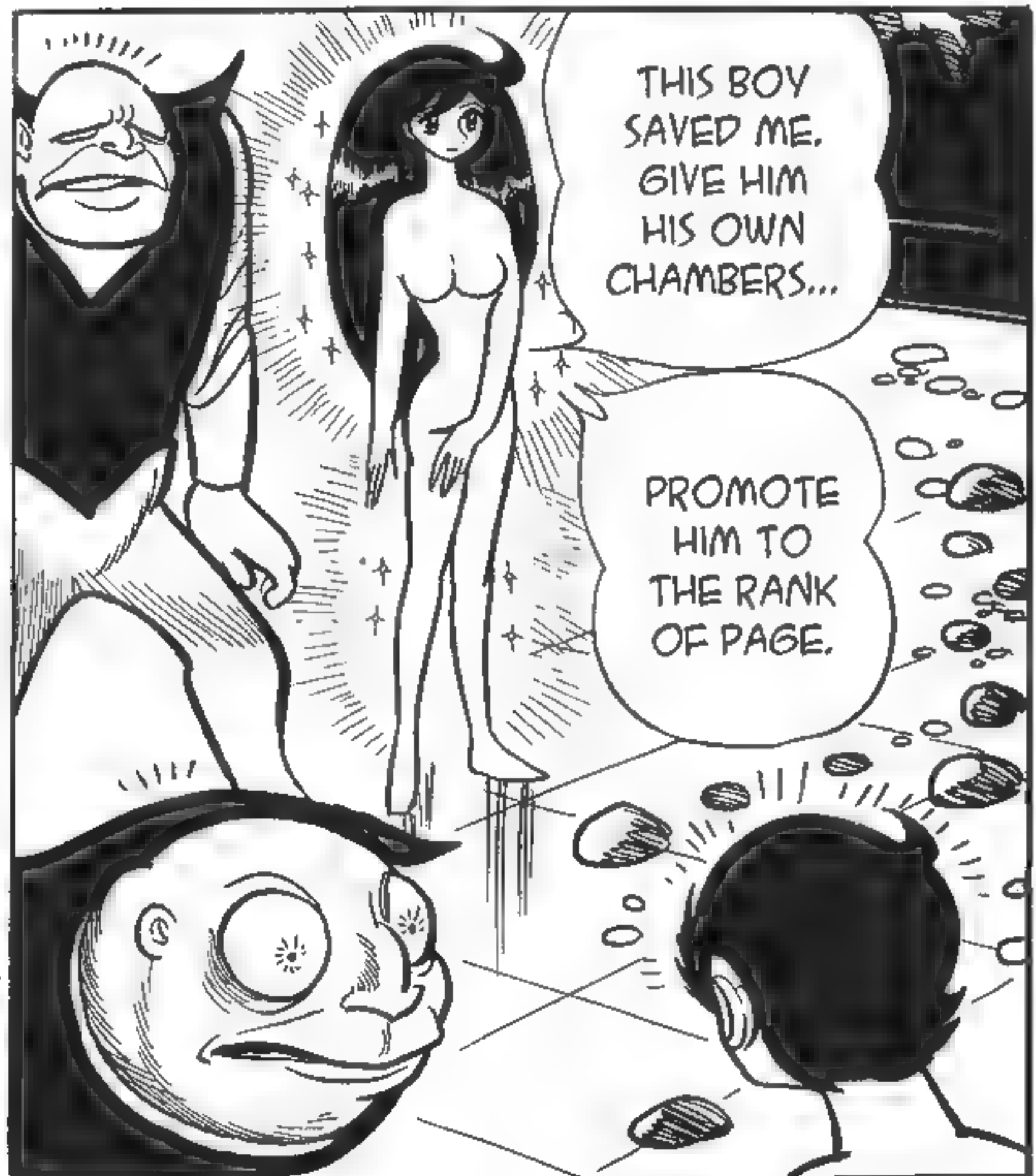
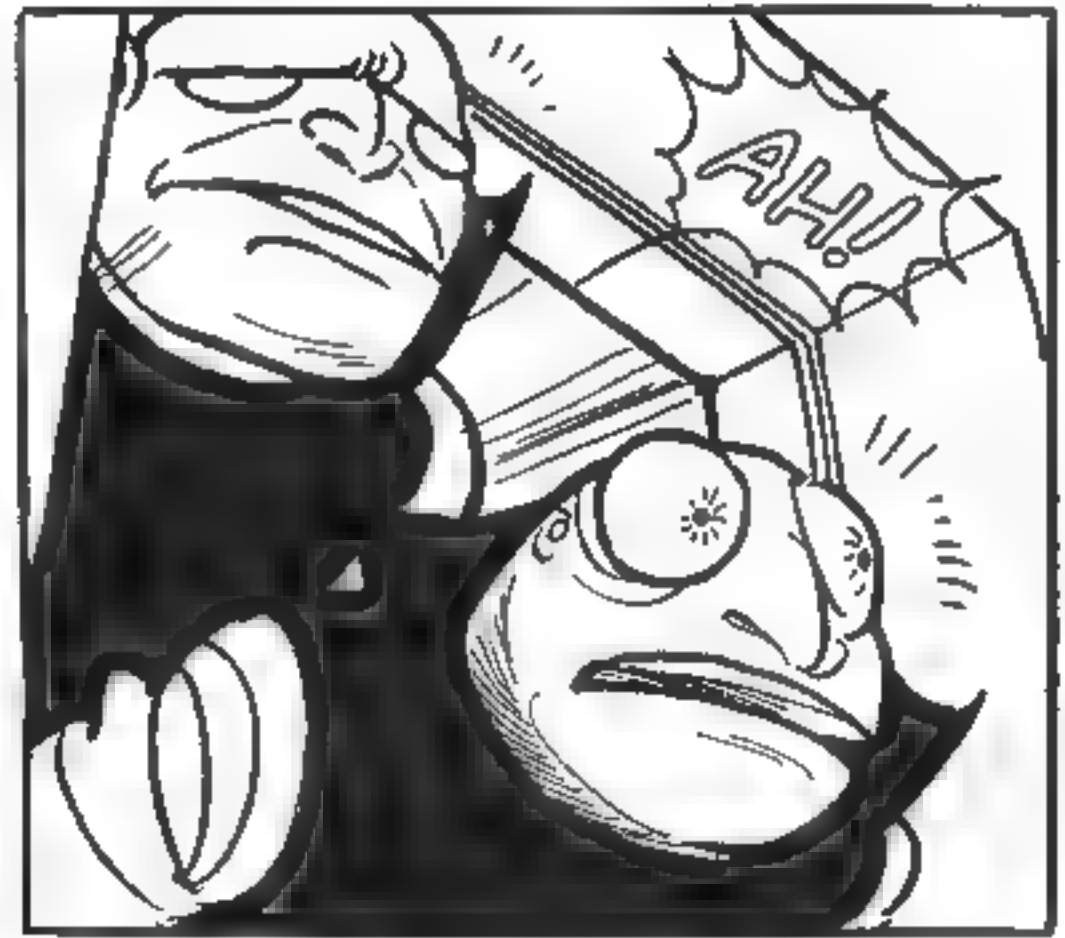
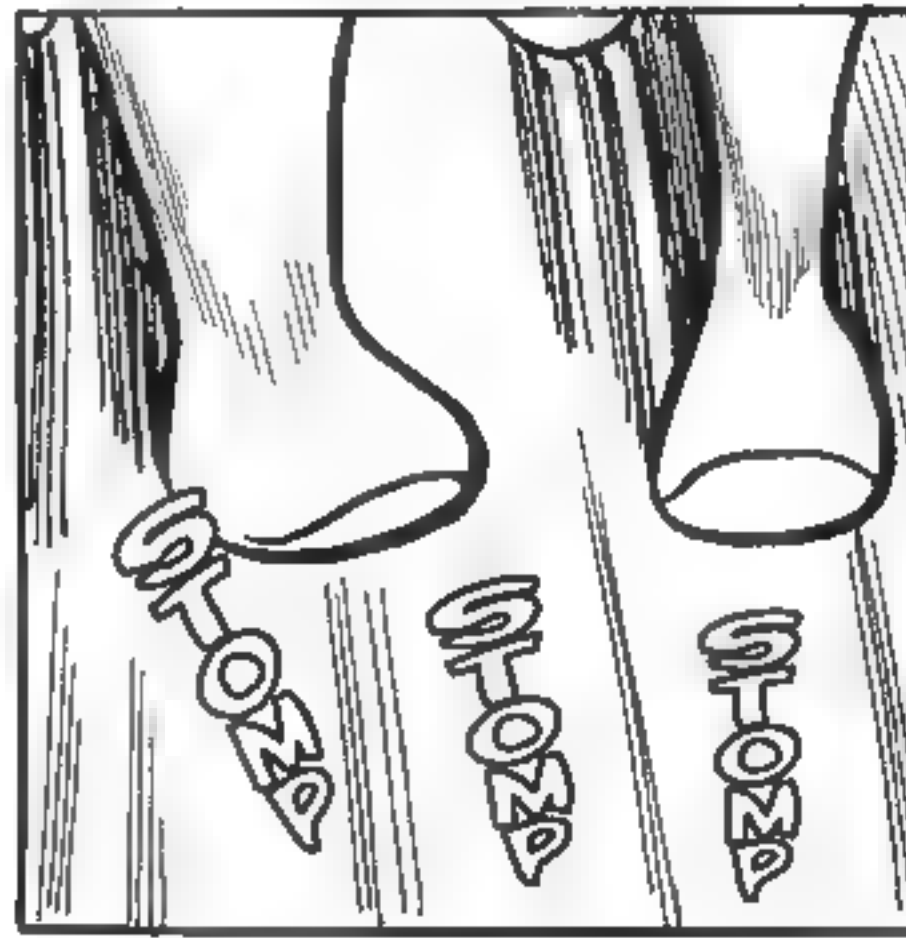


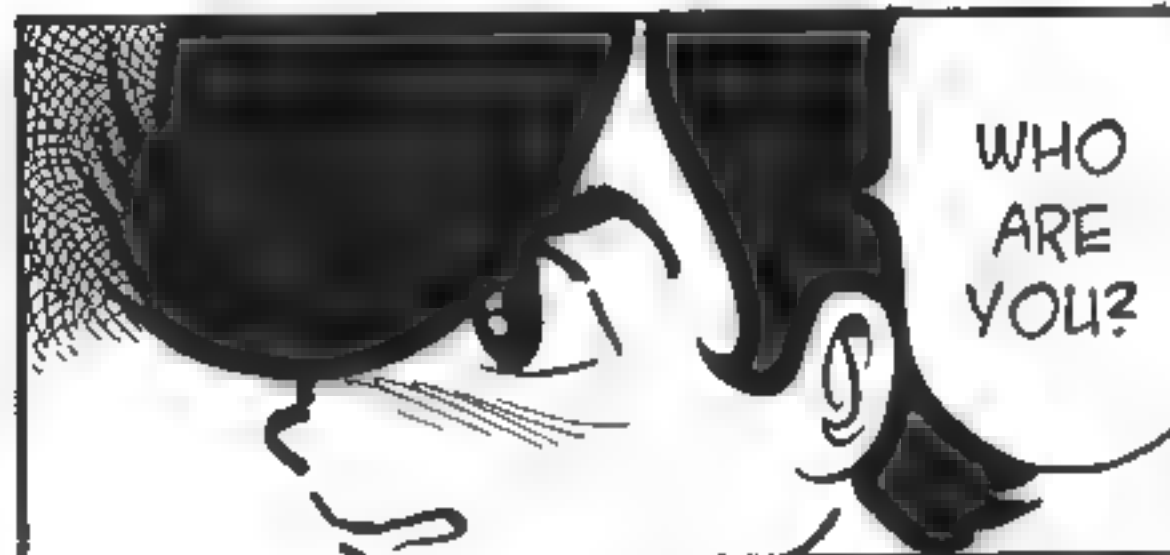
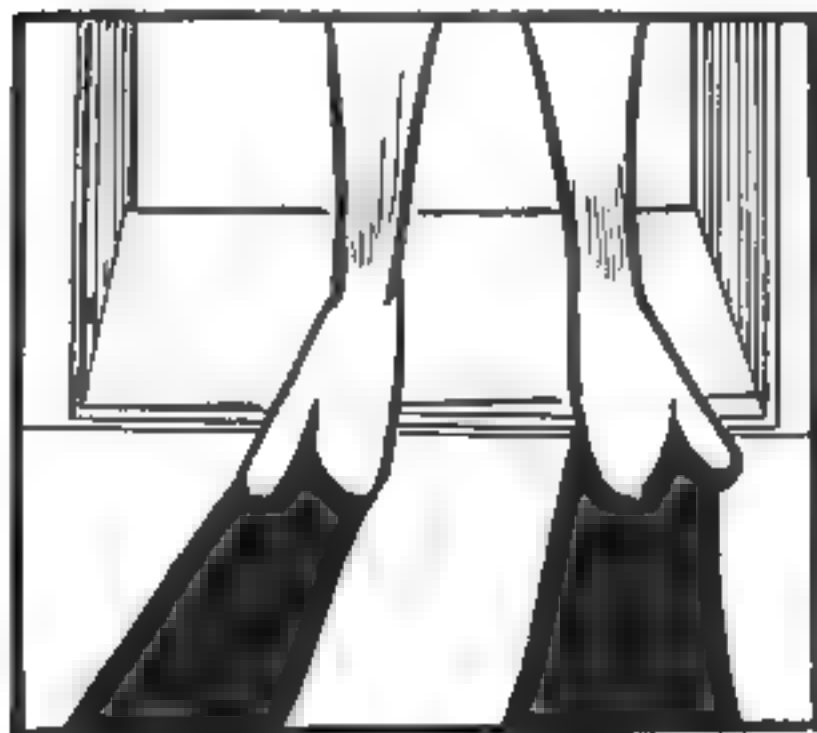




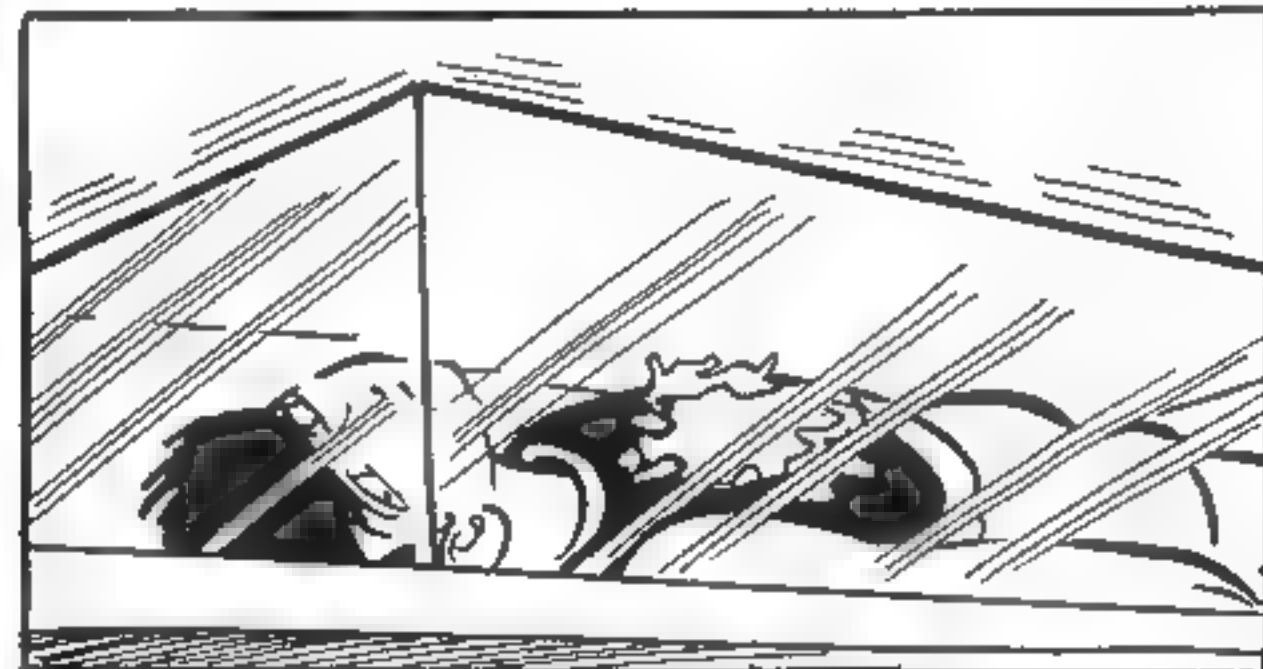
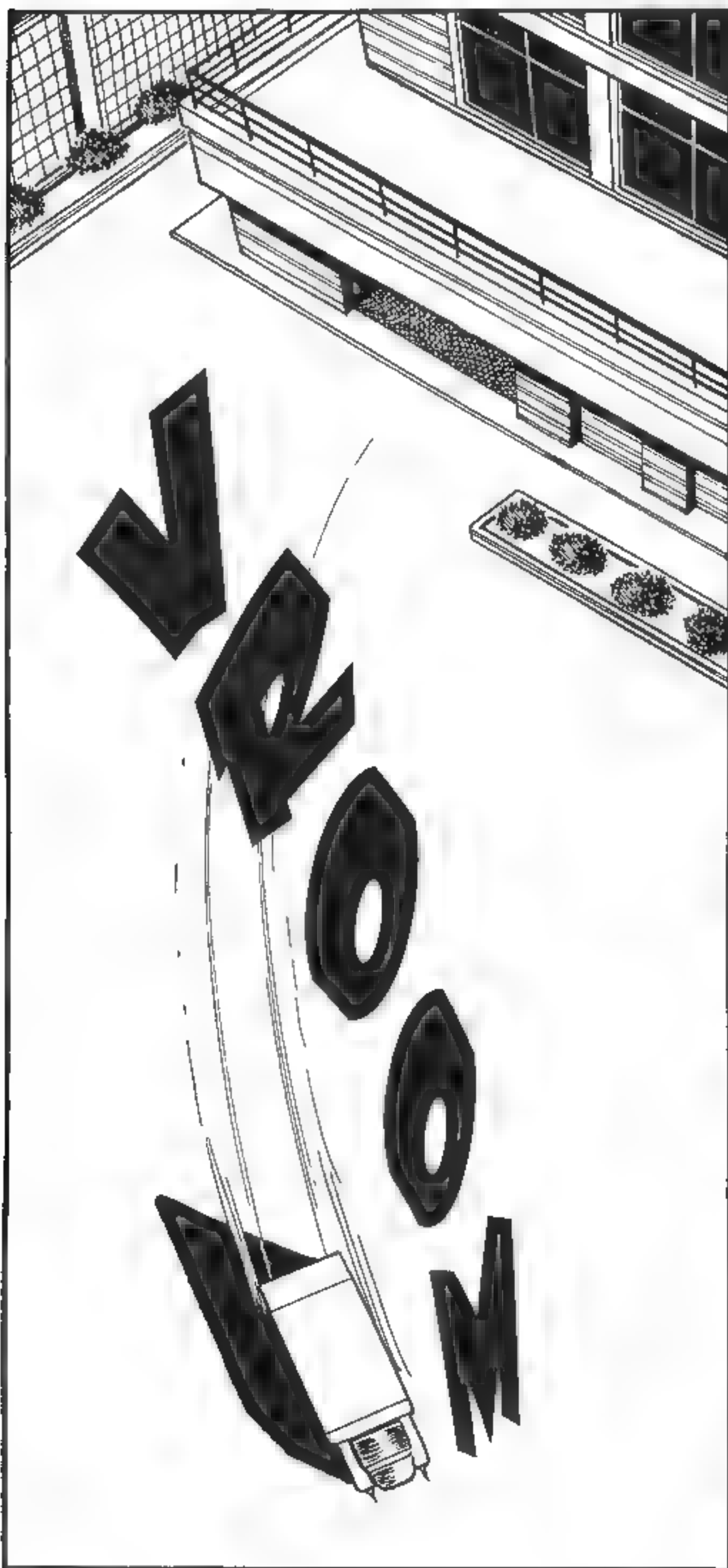


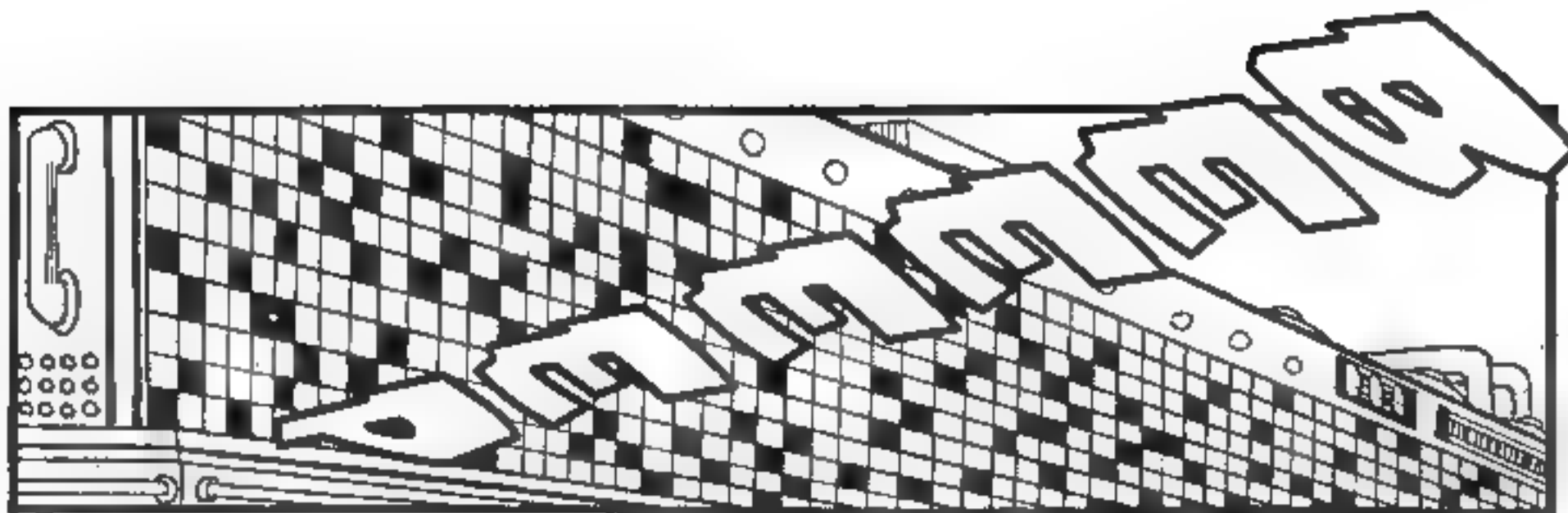


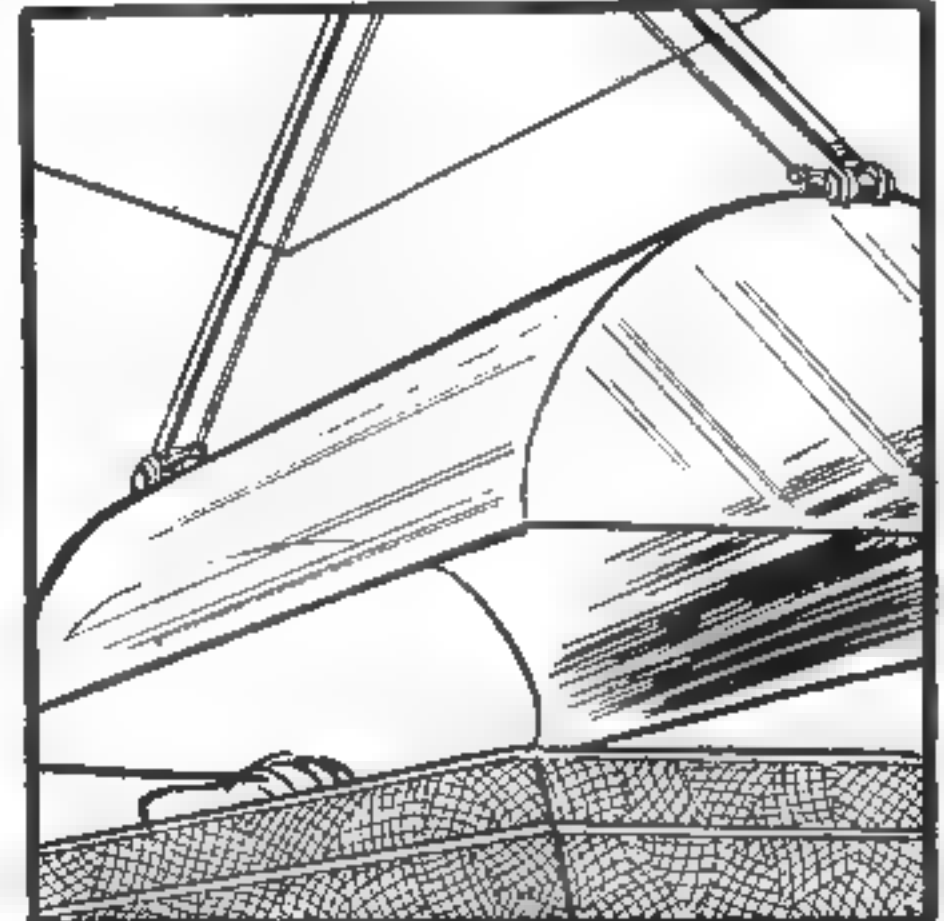
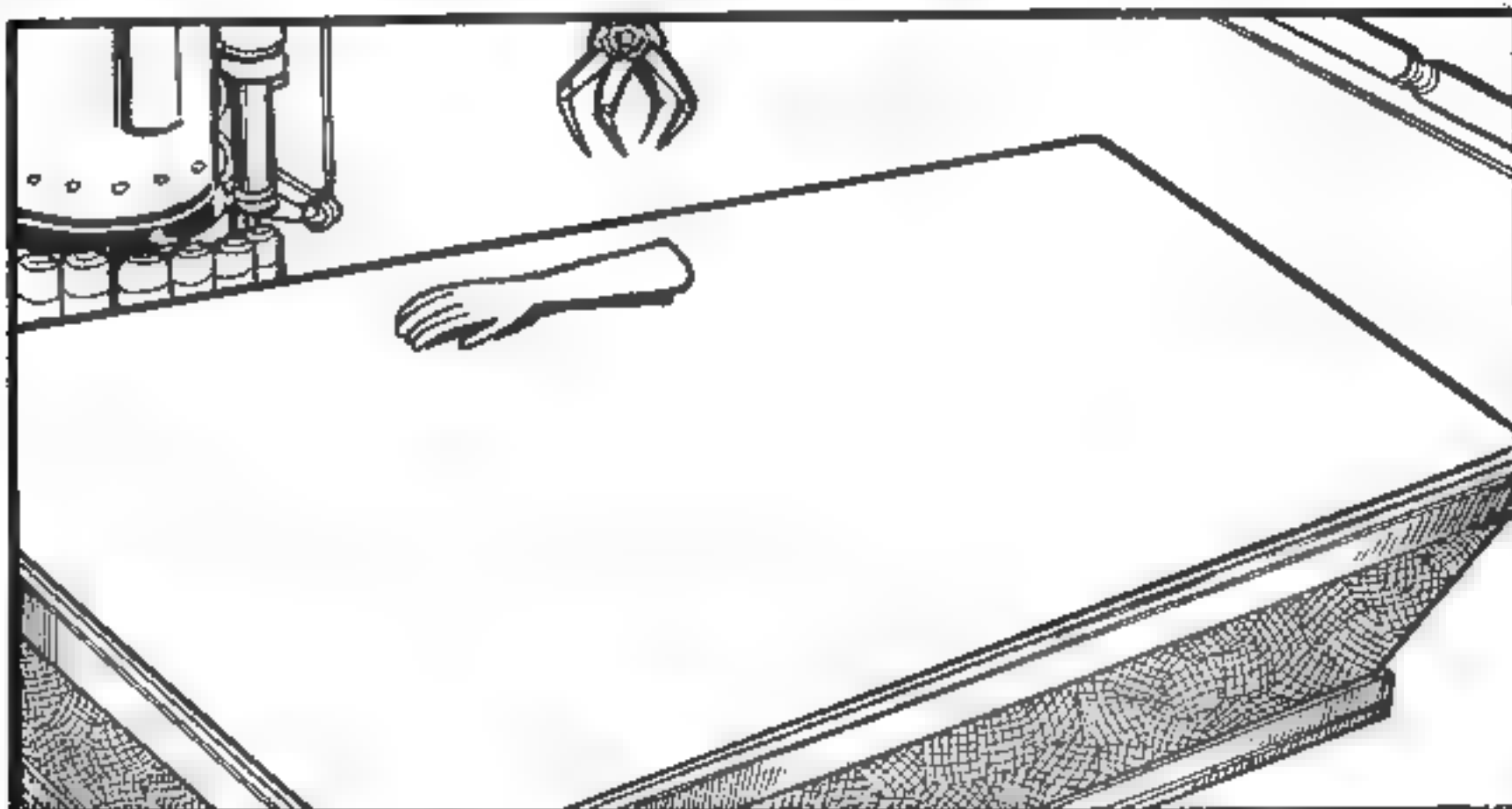
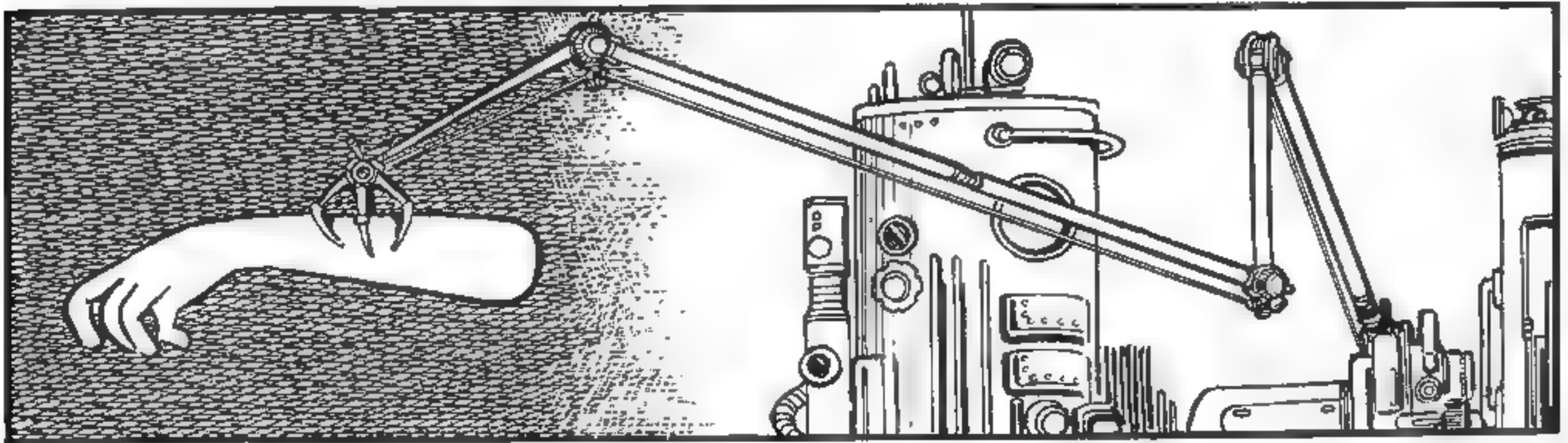
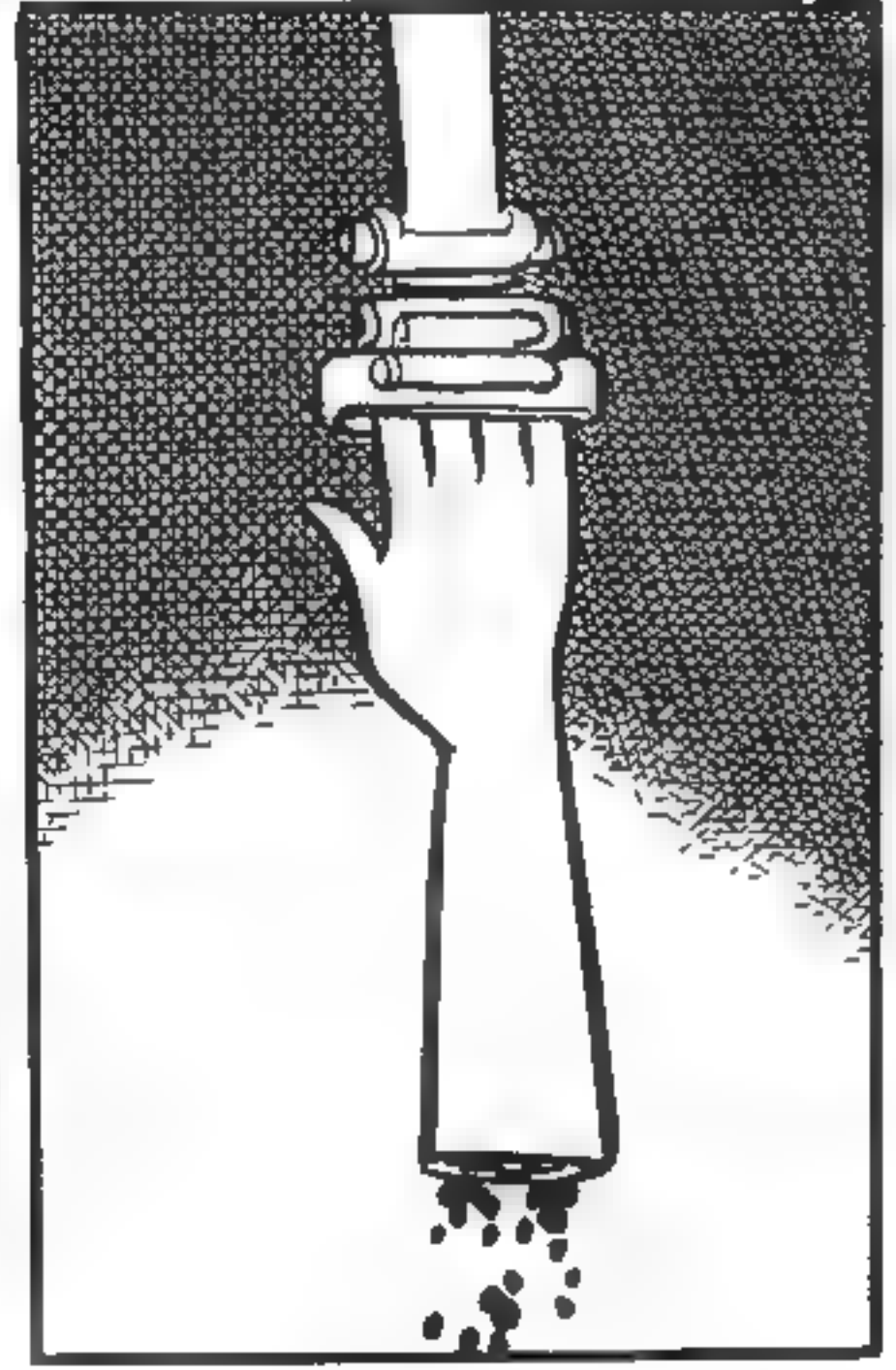
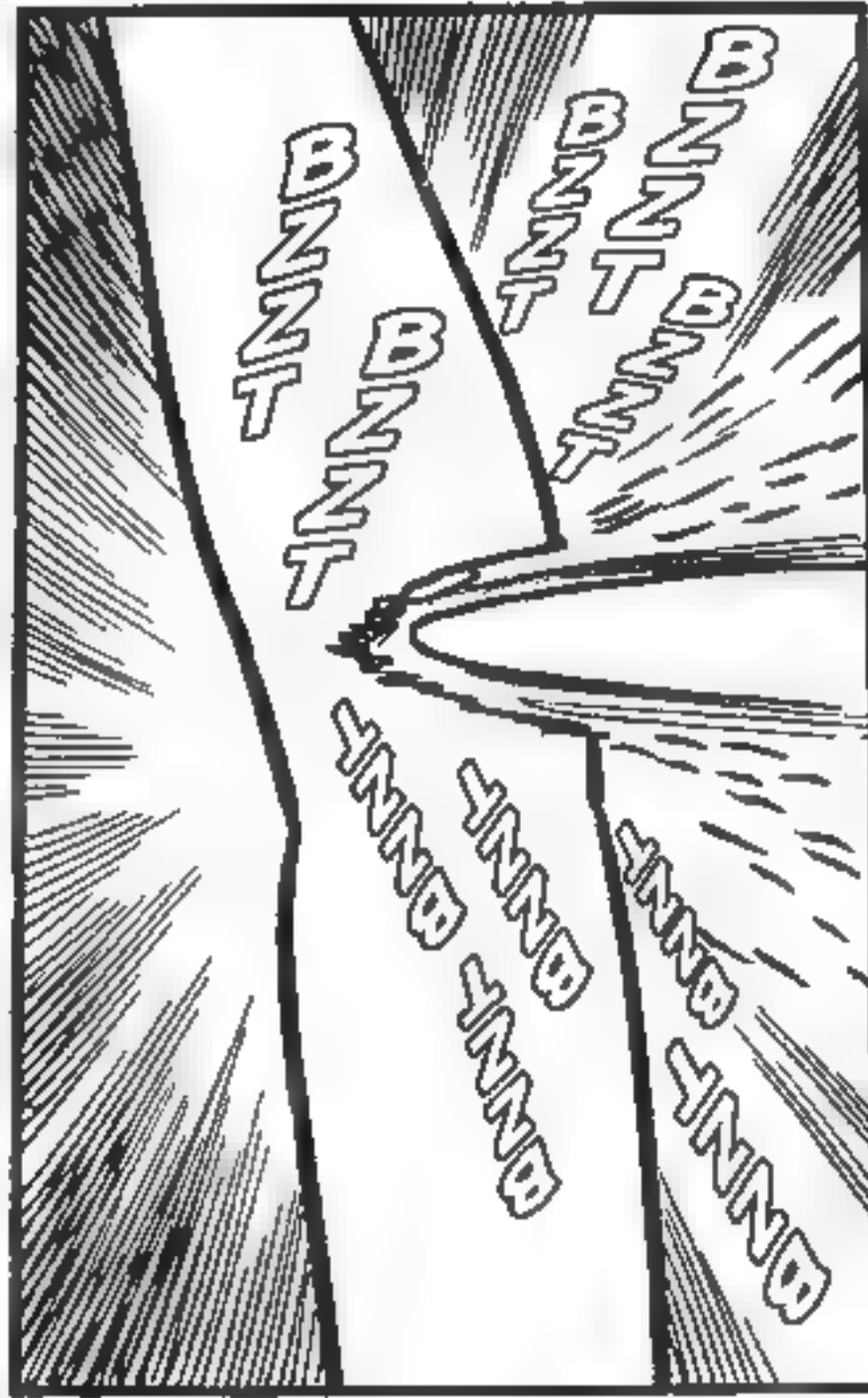
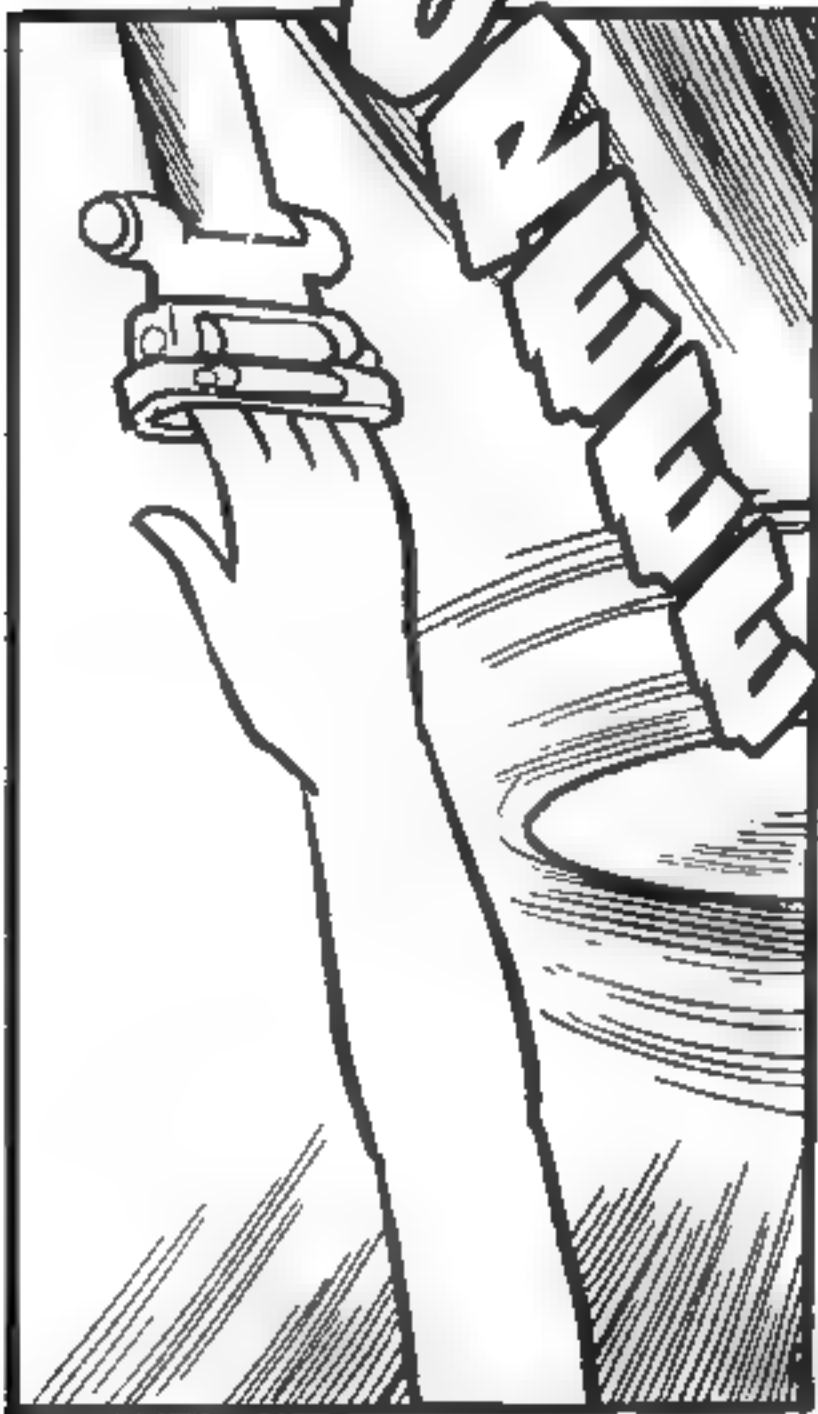


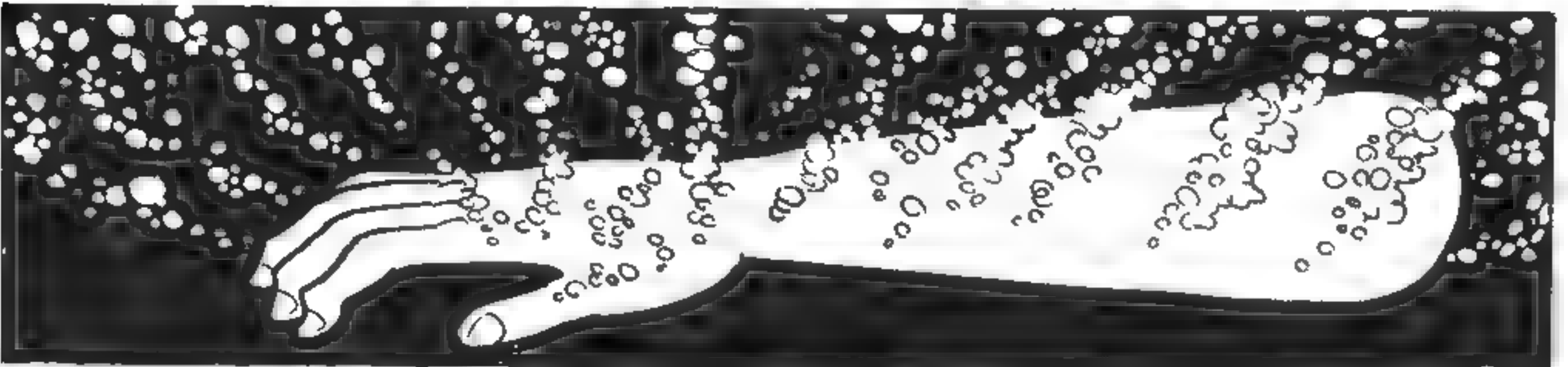
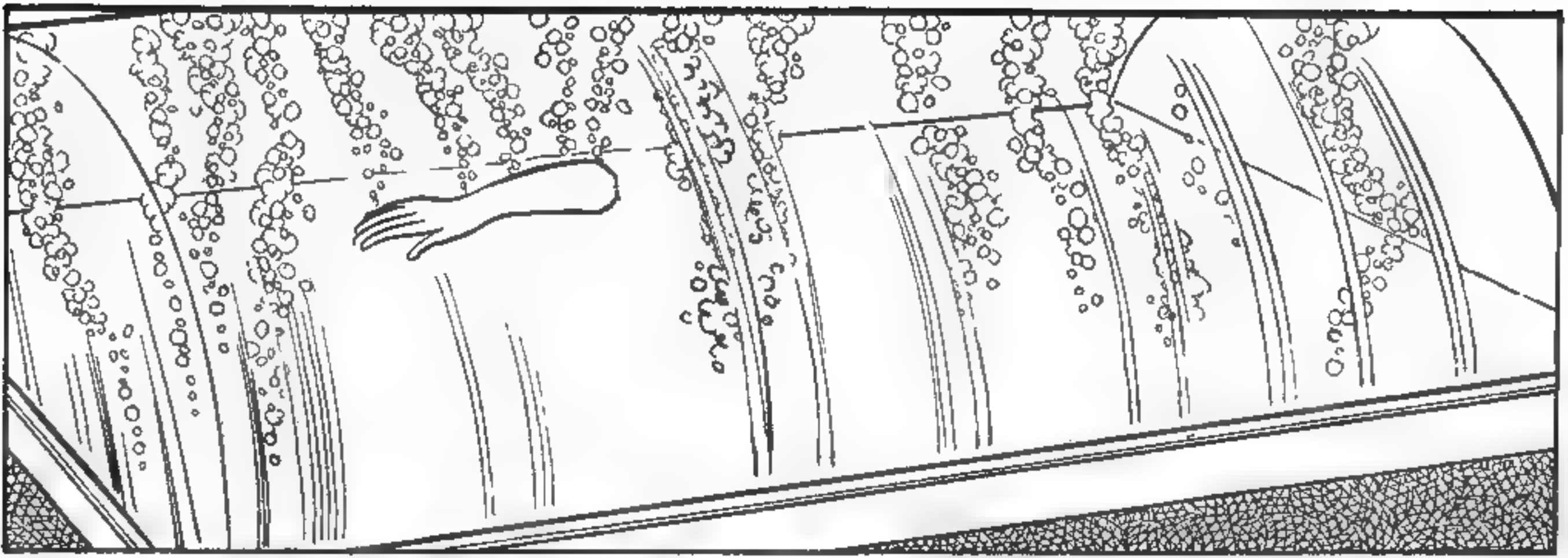








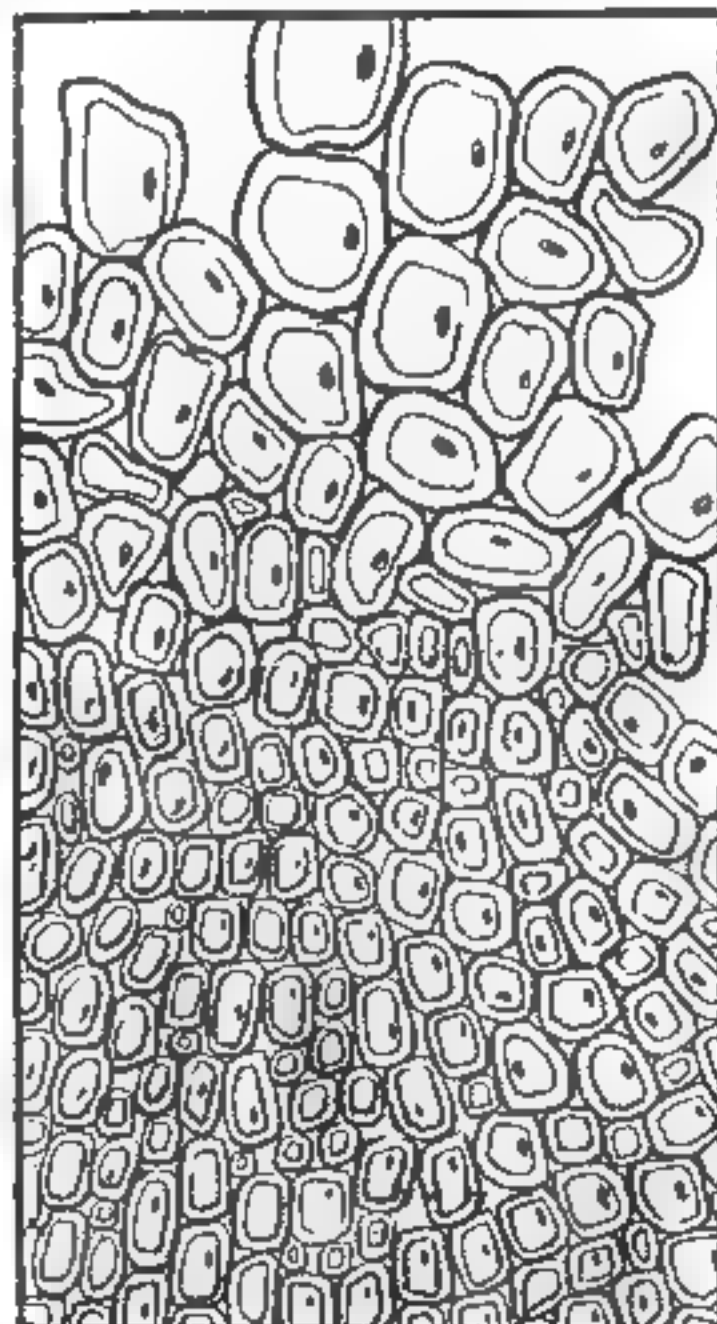
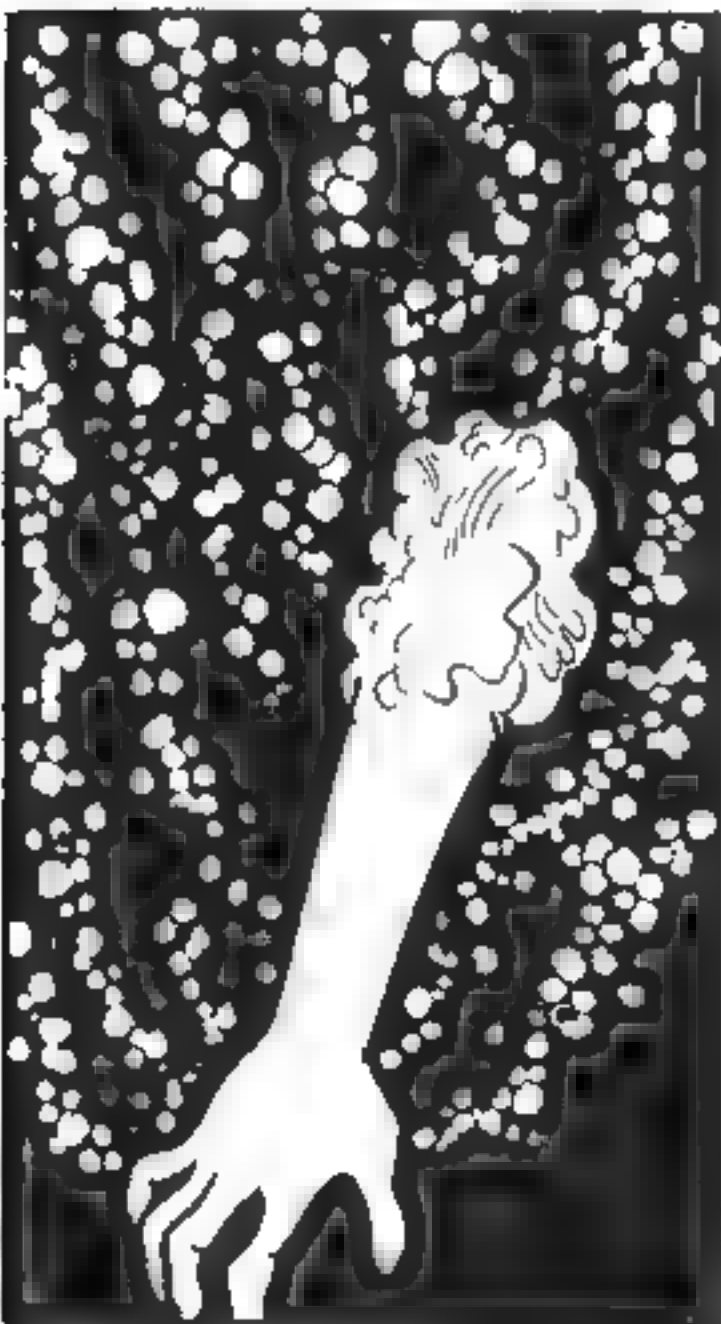


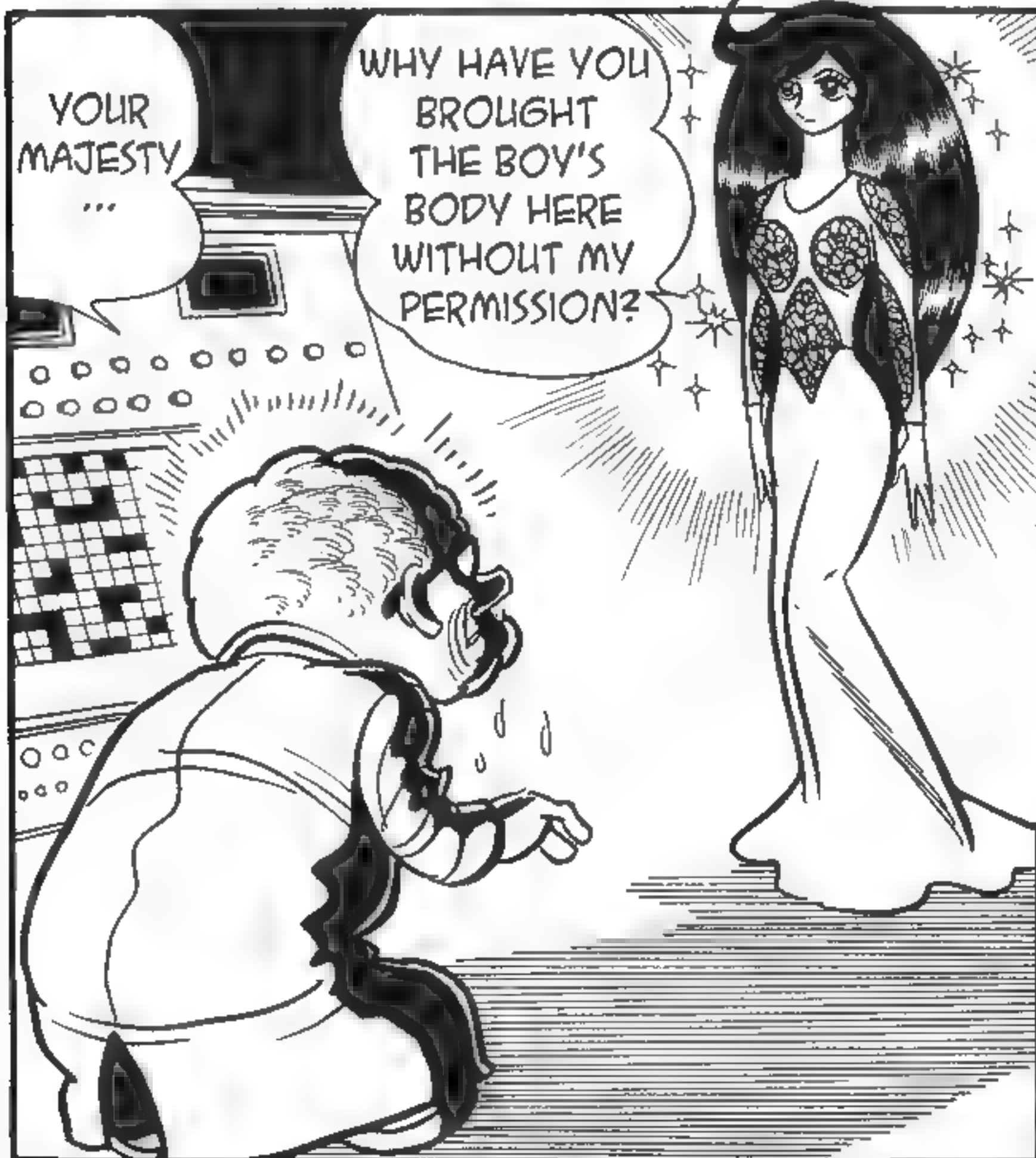
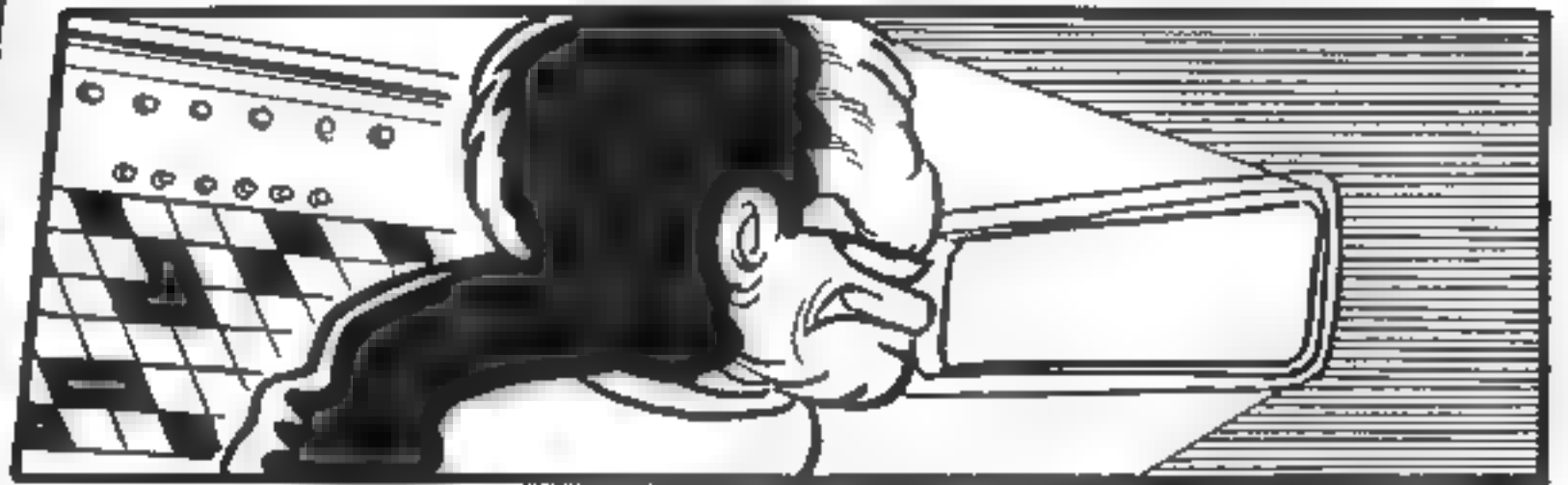
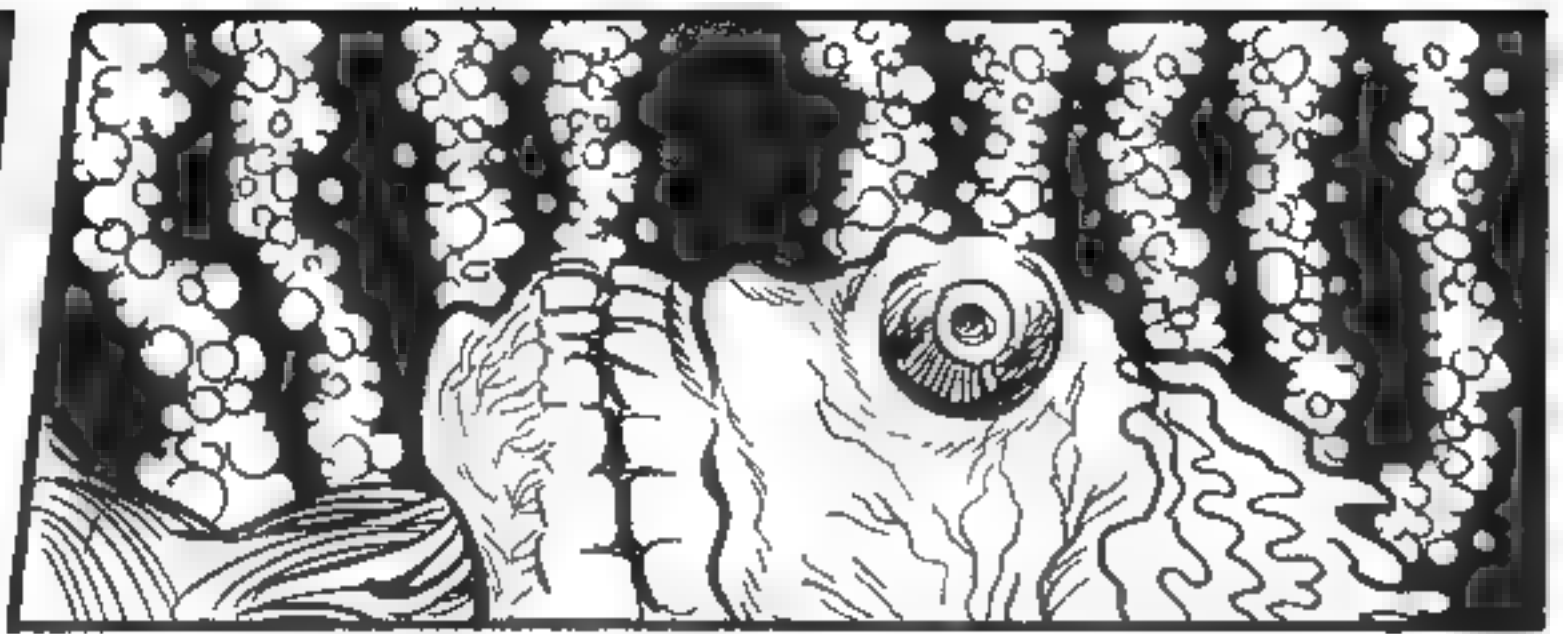


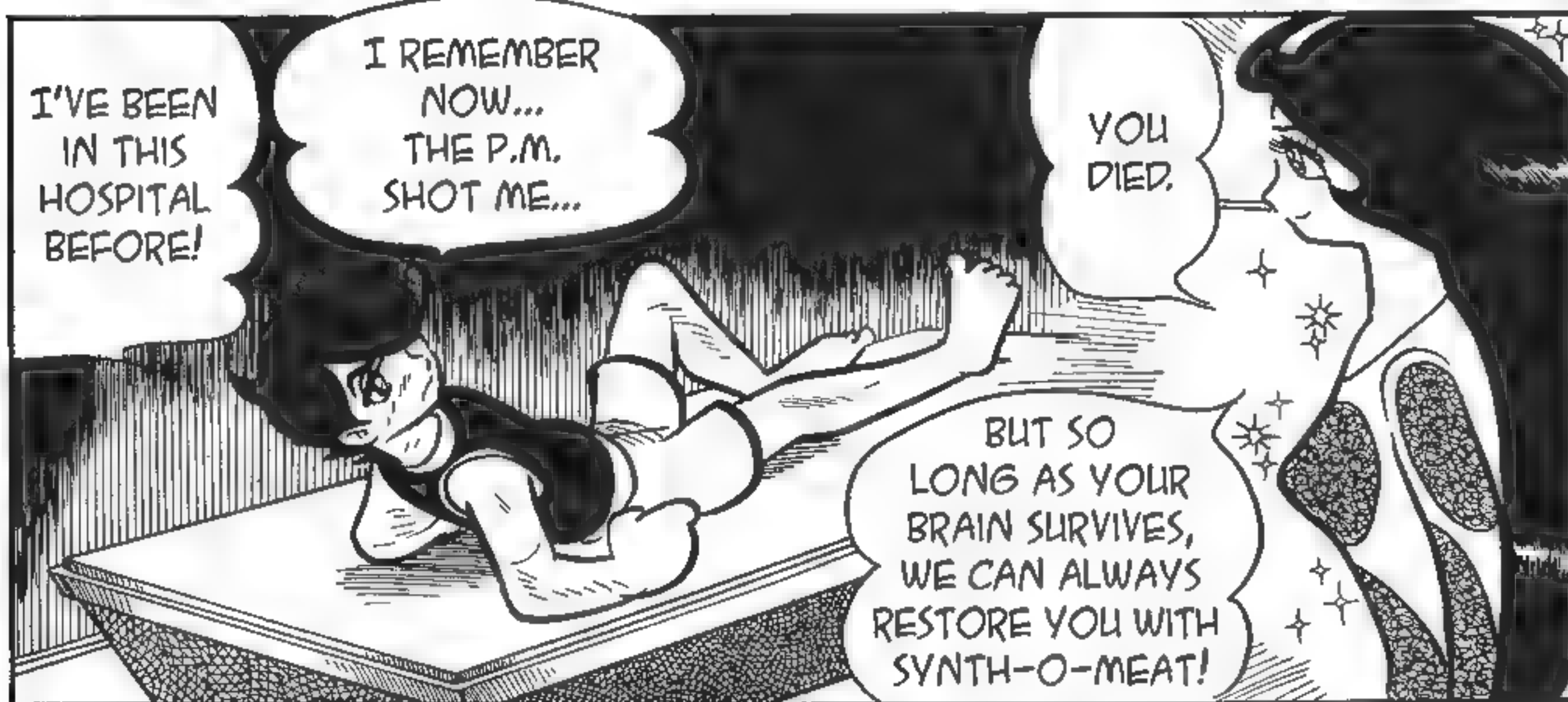
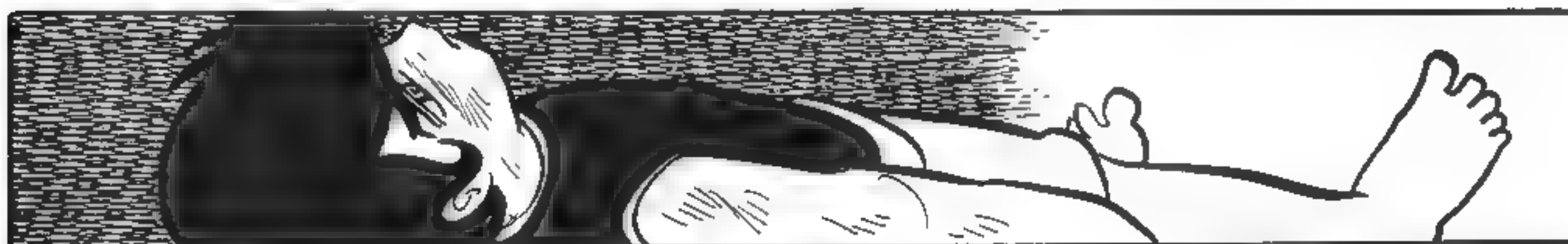
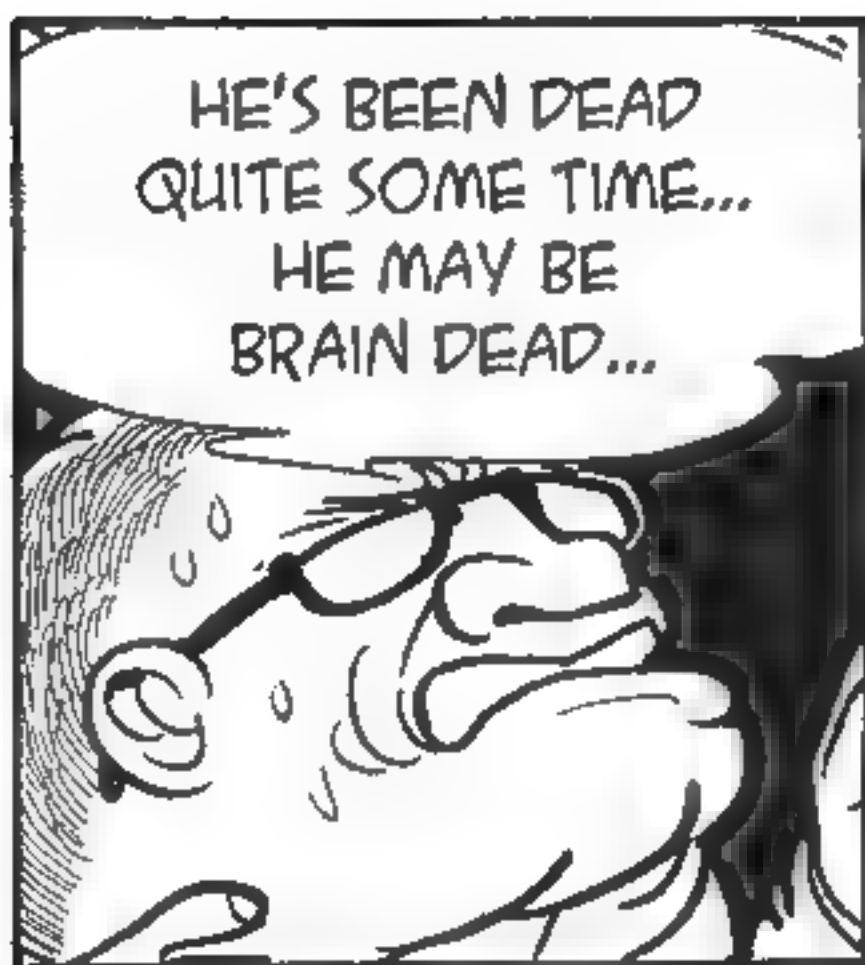
CLONING

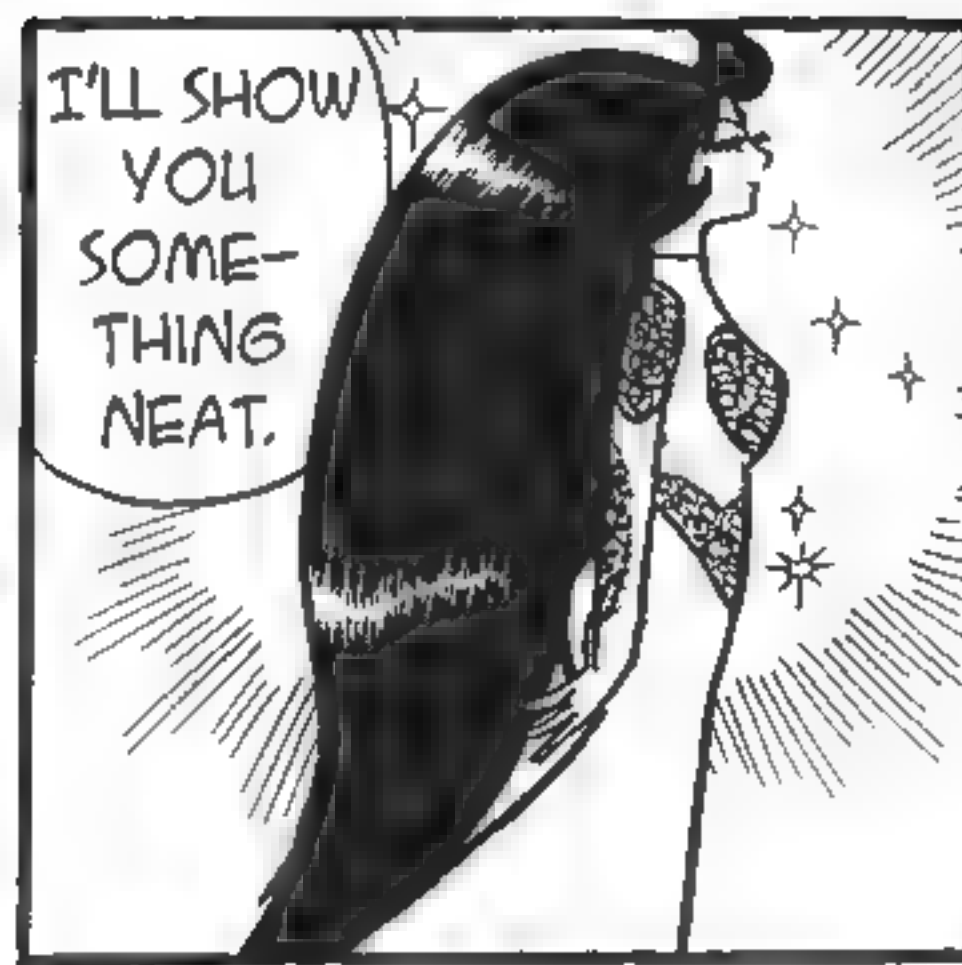
IN 1964, THE AMERICAN SCIENTIST DR. F. C. STEWARD MADE IT KNOWN THAT WHEN A PIECE OF CARROT WAS CULTIVATED IN A SPECIAL MEDIUM, ITS CELLS REPRODUCED TO FORM A NEW CARROT THAT WAS AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL. SUBSEQUENT RESEARCH FOUND THAT ANY SPECIES OF PLANT COULD BE REPRODUCED IN THE SAME MANNER UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, INFINITE COPIES OF A SINGLE ORGANISM COULD BE PRODUCED WITHOUT SEEDS!

DR. J. B. GURDON CALLED THE PHENOMENON "CLONING" AND SUCCEEDED IN GROWING A TADPOLE FROM A CELL NUCLEUS. THE CLONED FROG WAS THE PERFECT TWIN OF ITS ORIGINAL. IT IS SAID THAT, ONE DAY, EVEN HUMAN CLONING WILL BE POSSIBLE.









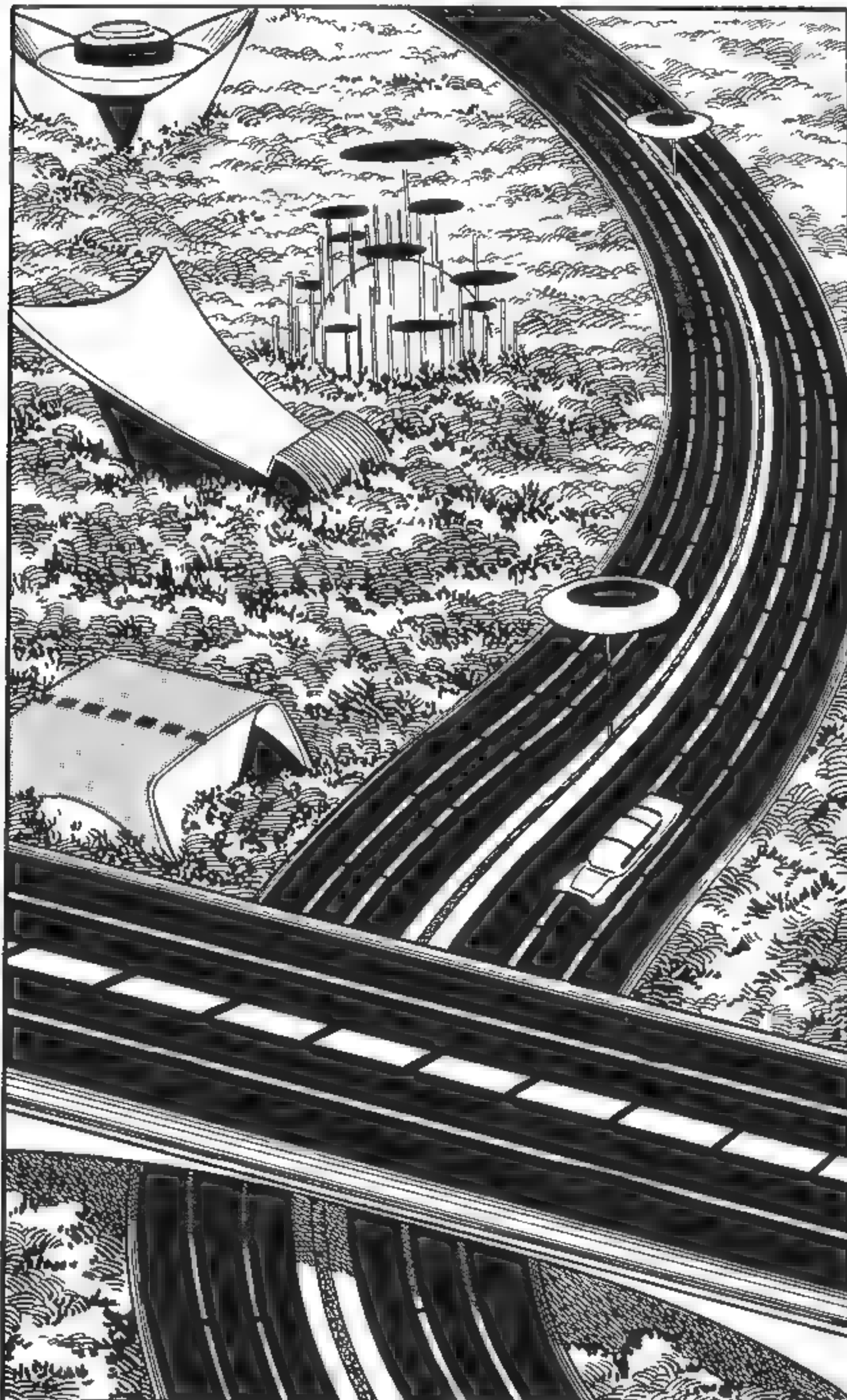


SHOGO, YOU'RE NOT
SAFE IN THE PALACE.
COME WITH ME TO MY
MOUNTAIN RETREAT!
THE P.M. AND HIS
LACKEYS WON'T FIND
YOU THERE.



WHY ARE YOU
PROTECTING
ME WHEN
I WANT
TO KILL
YOU
?

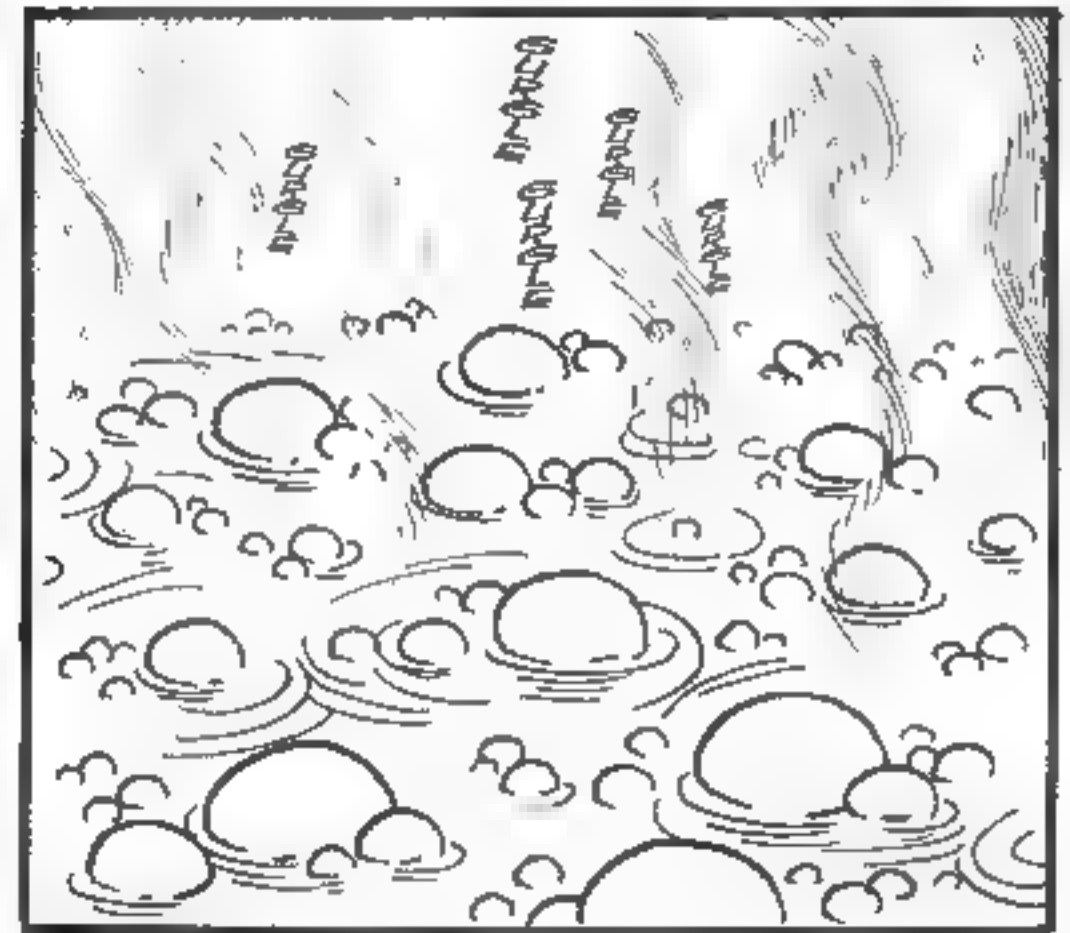
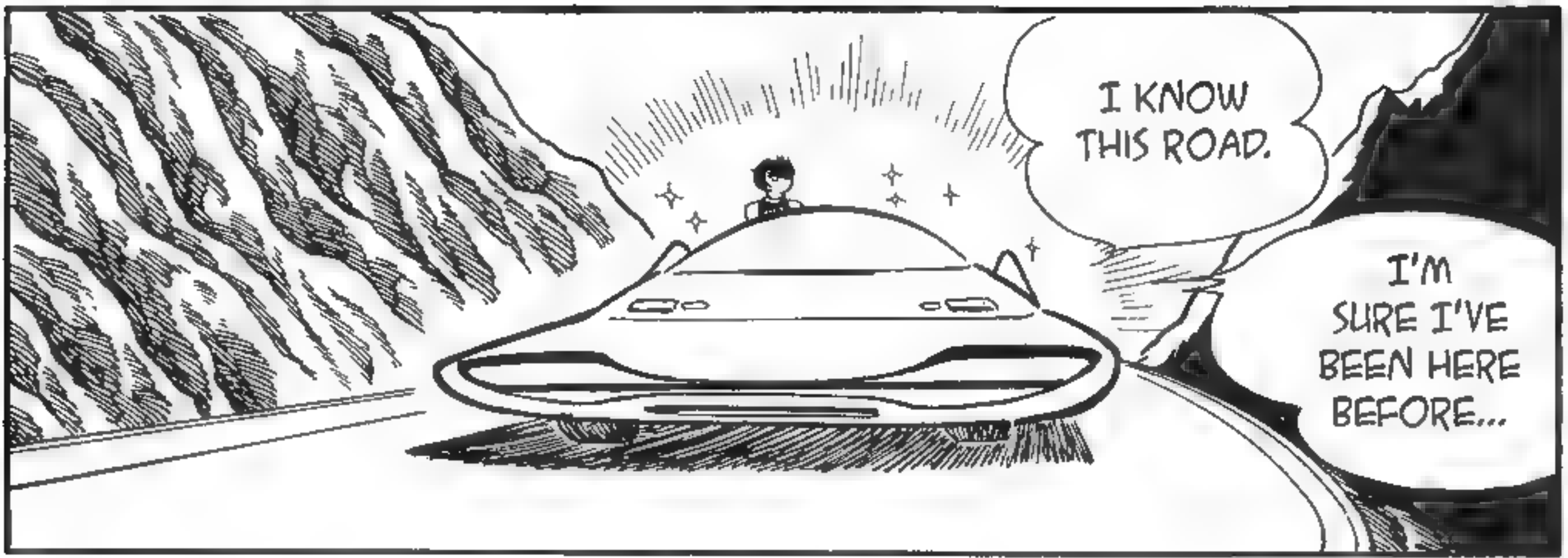
...

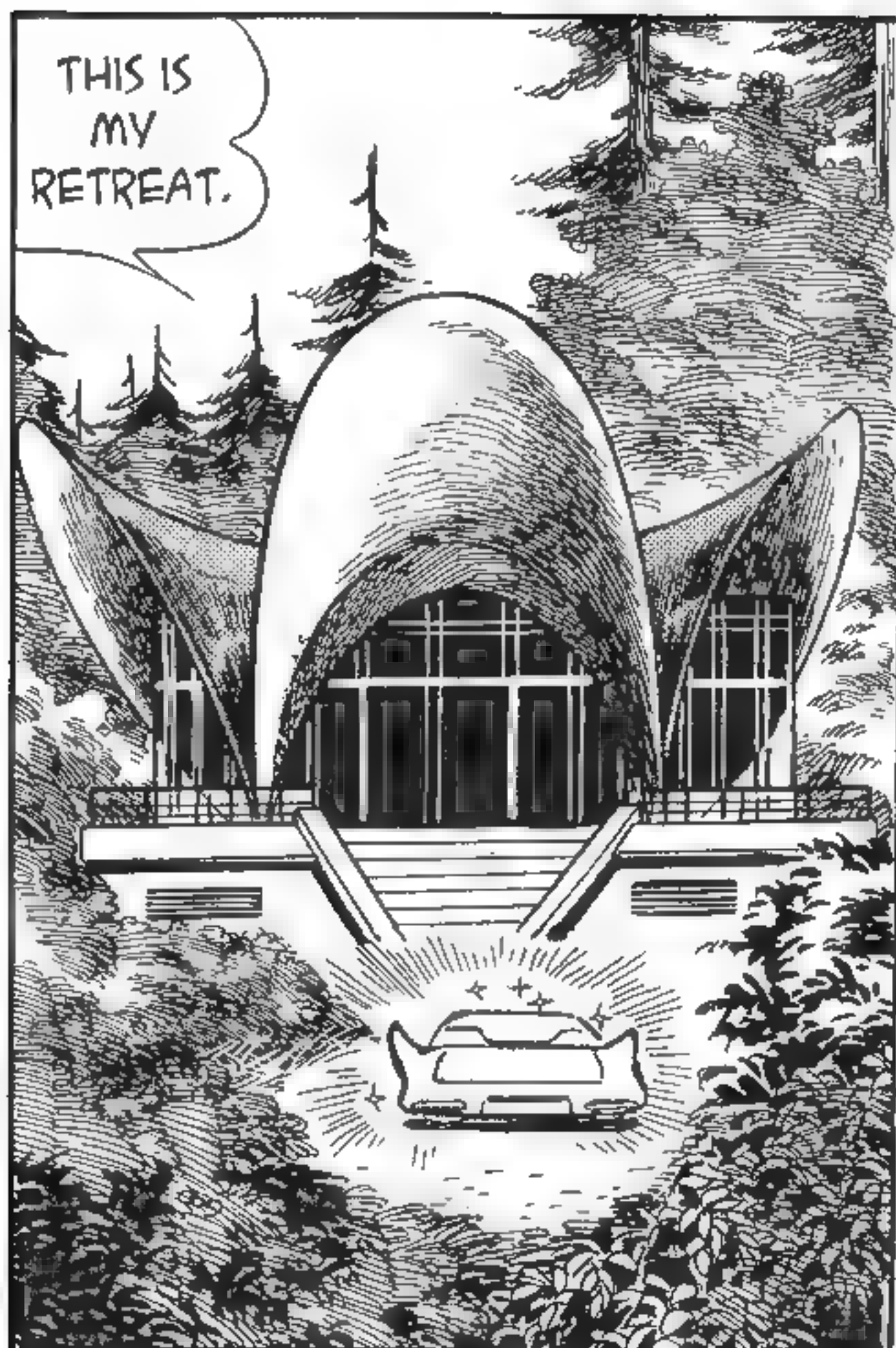


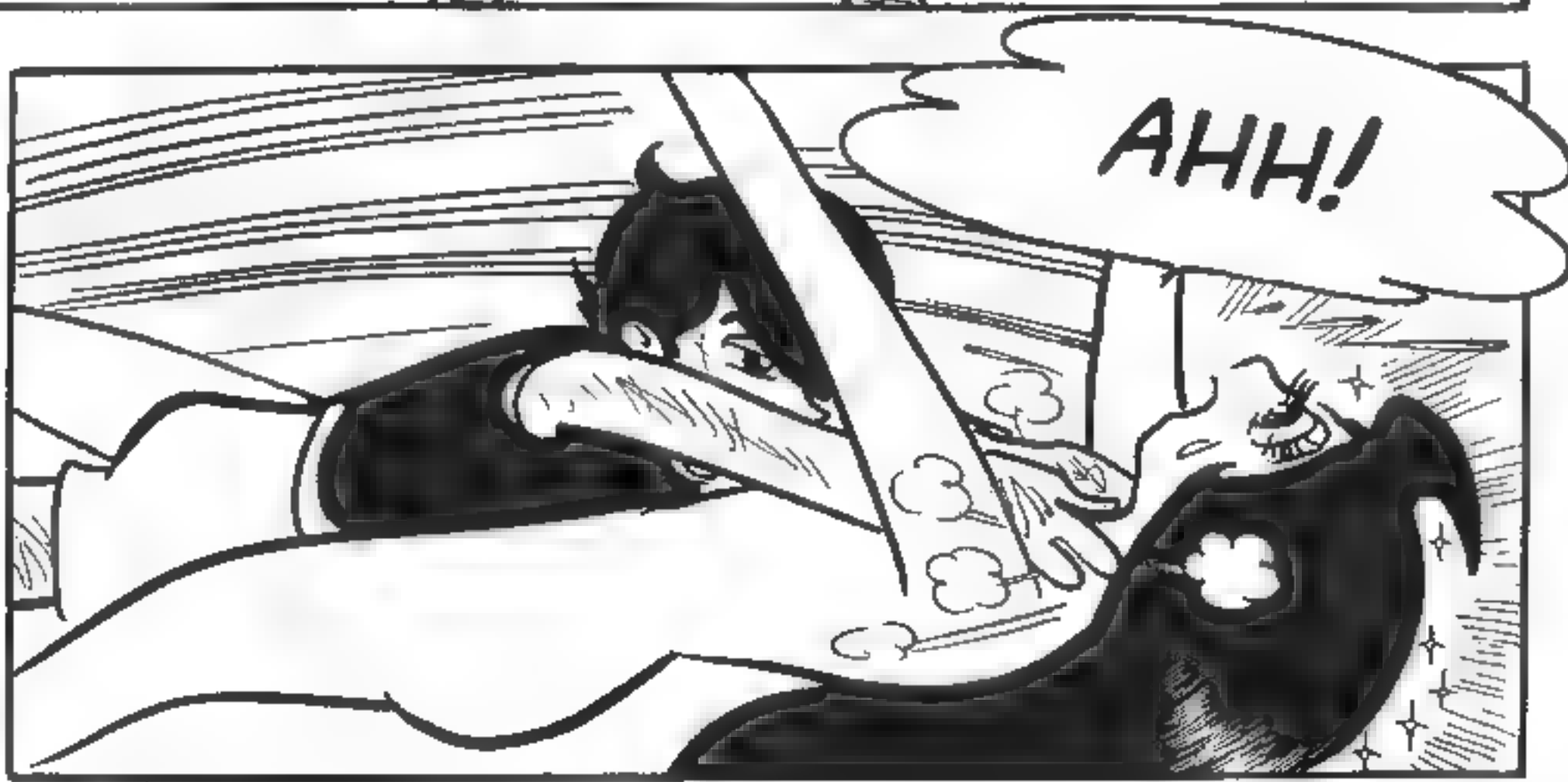
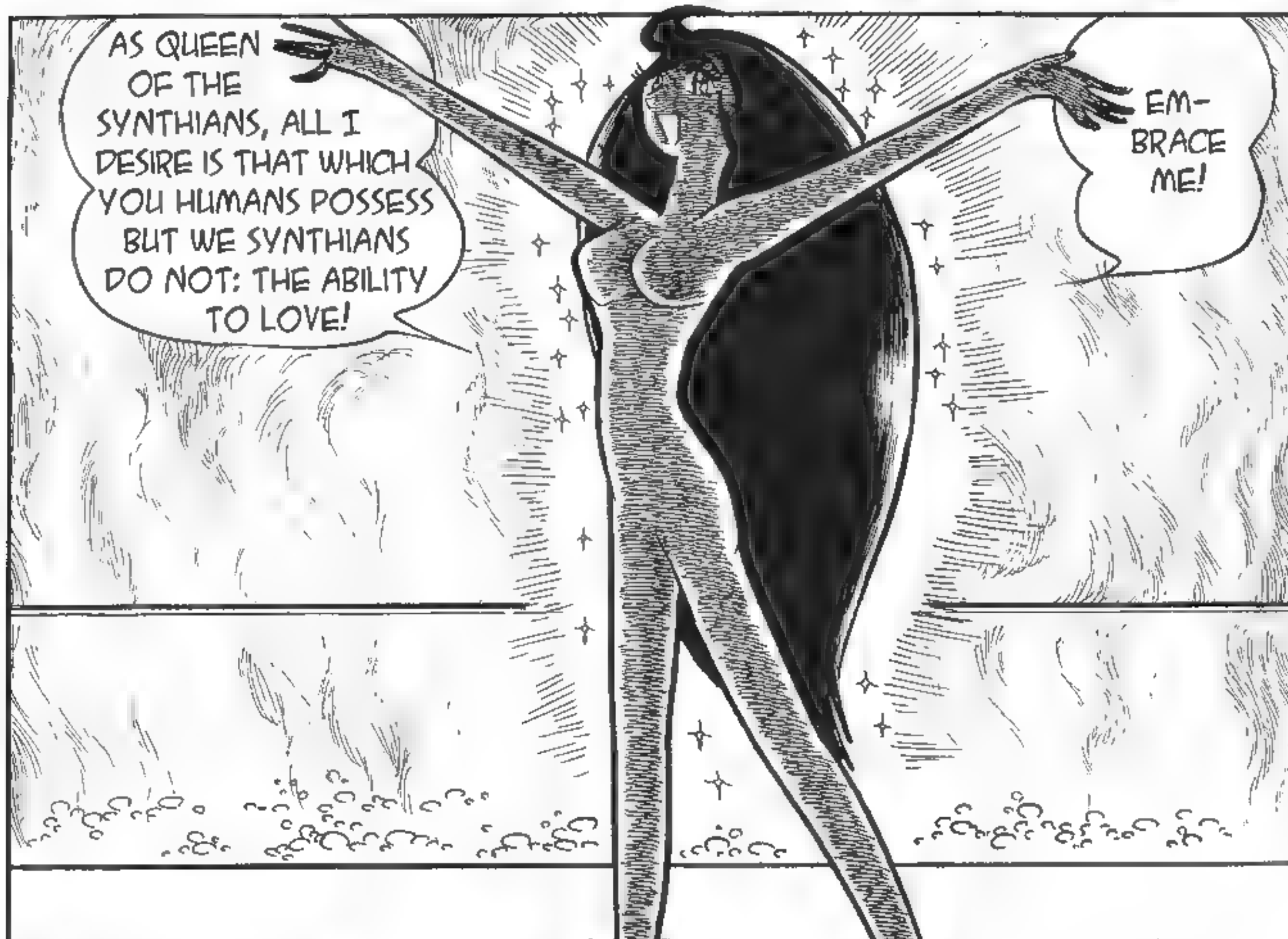
WHERE
ARE
WE?



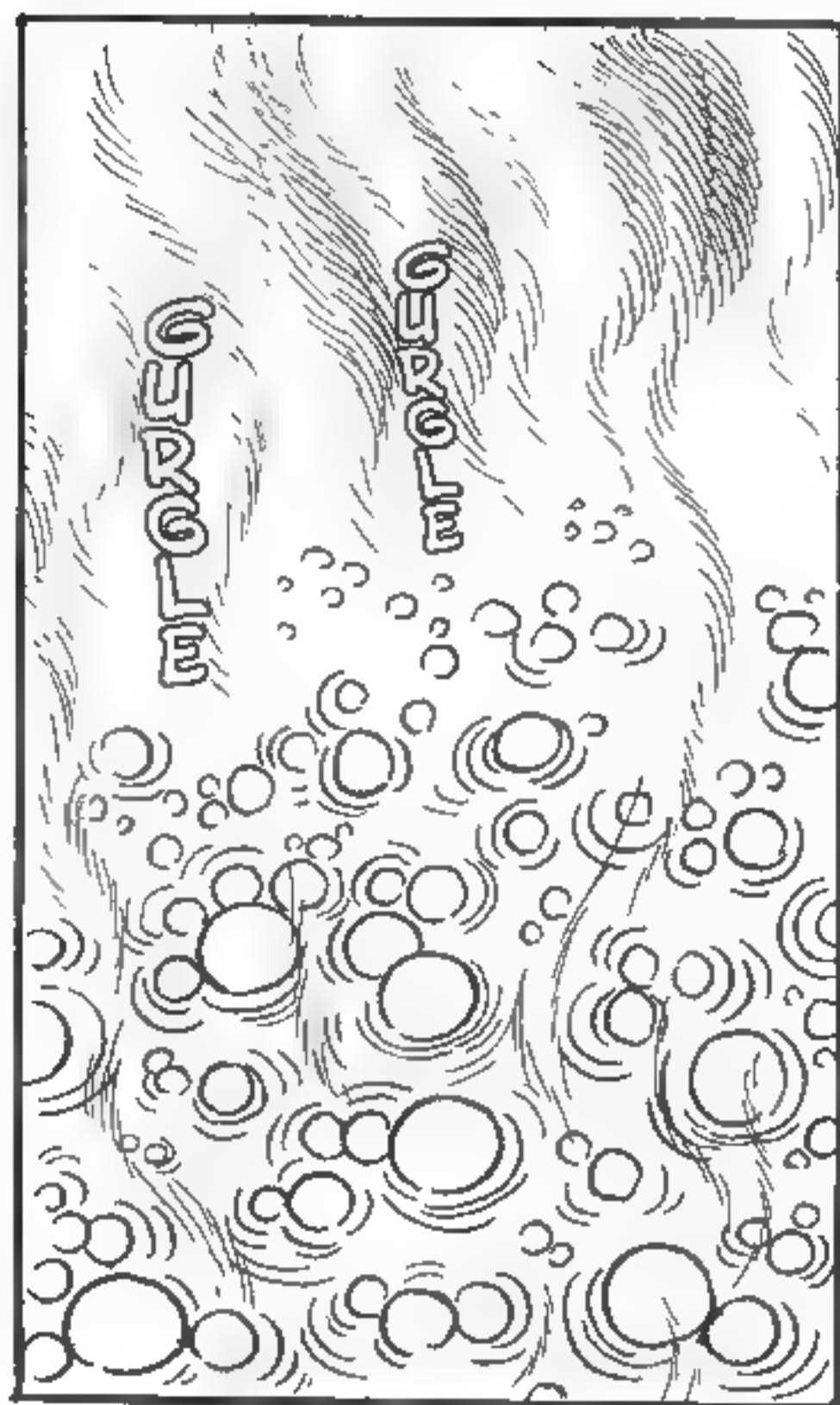
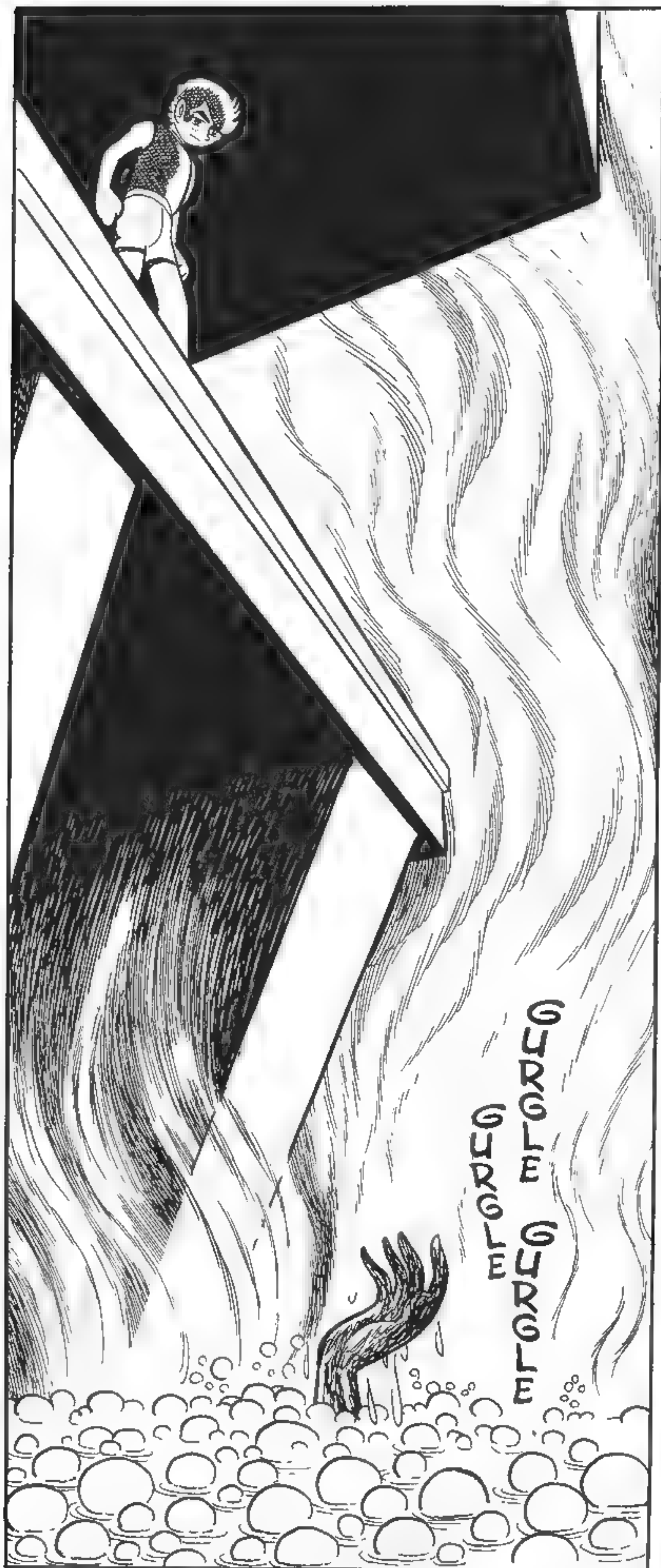
THE
MOUNTAINS
OF HAKONE.
LONG AGO,
THIS AREA
WAS A
HUMAN
RESORT.

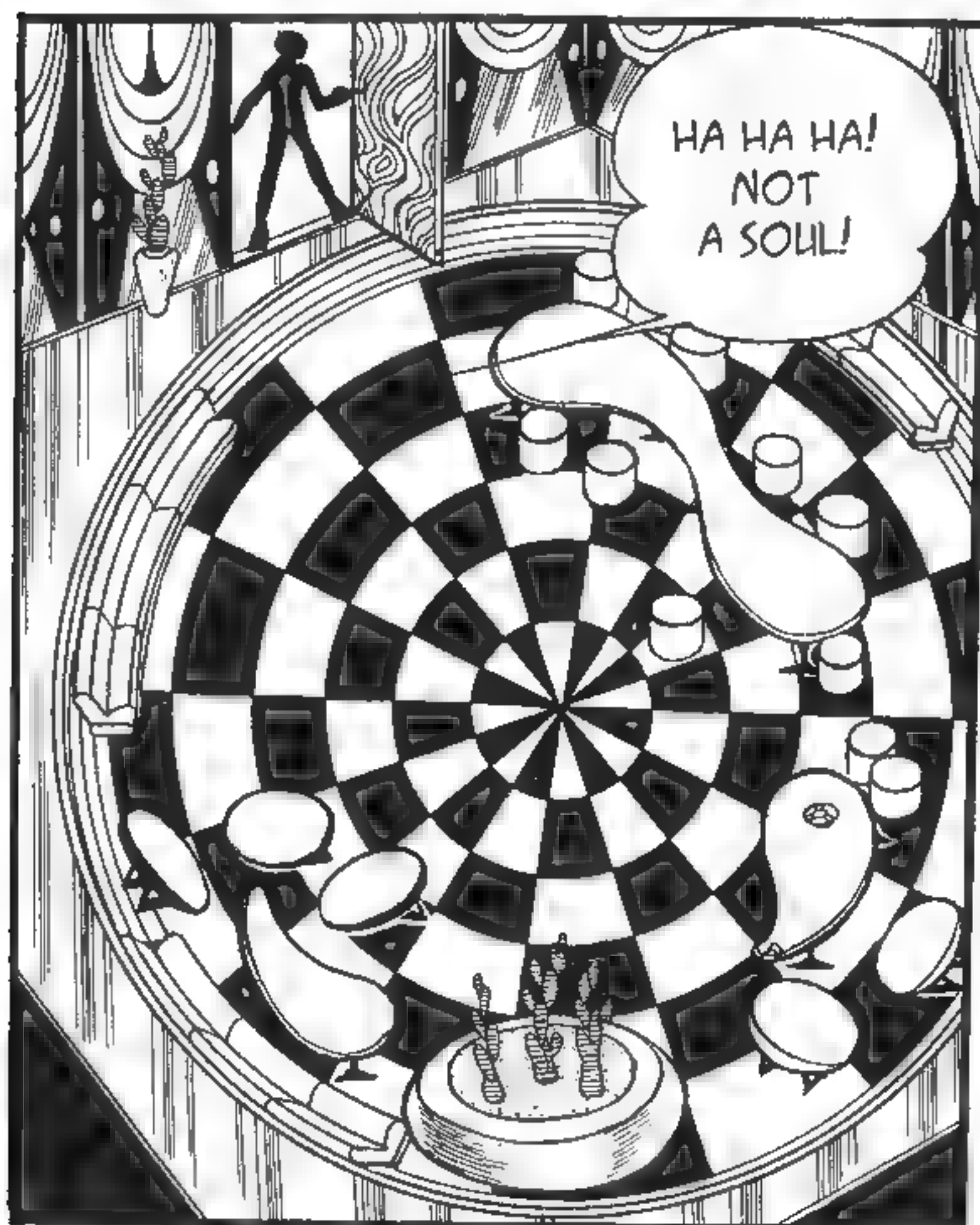
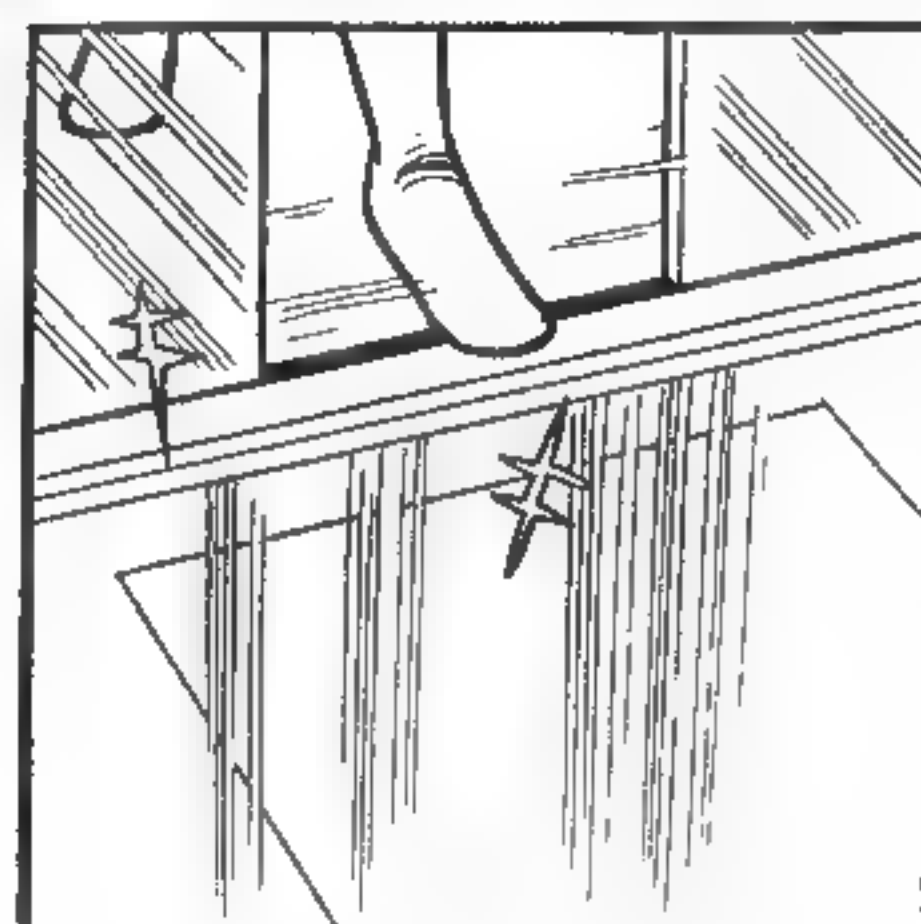














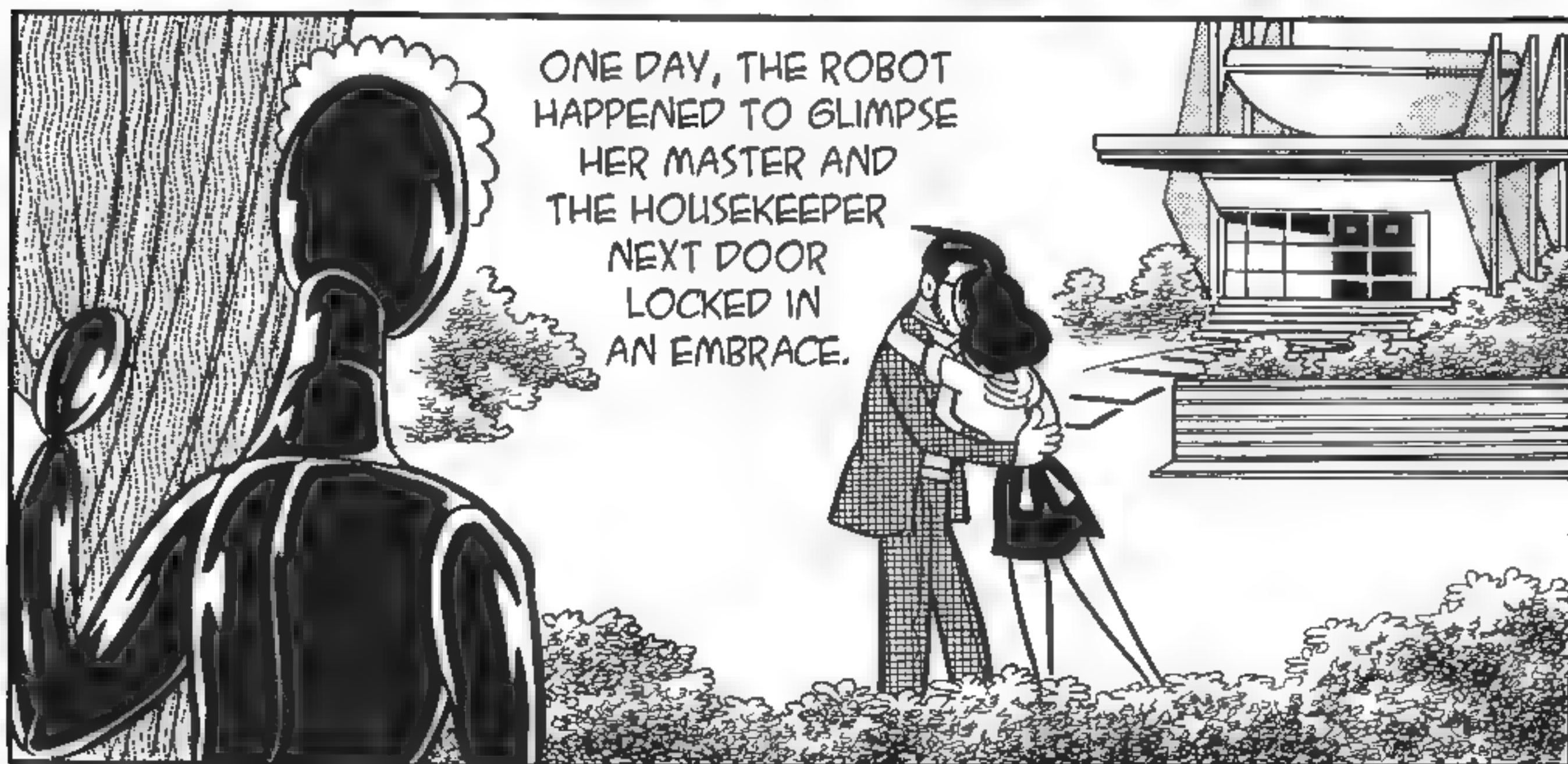
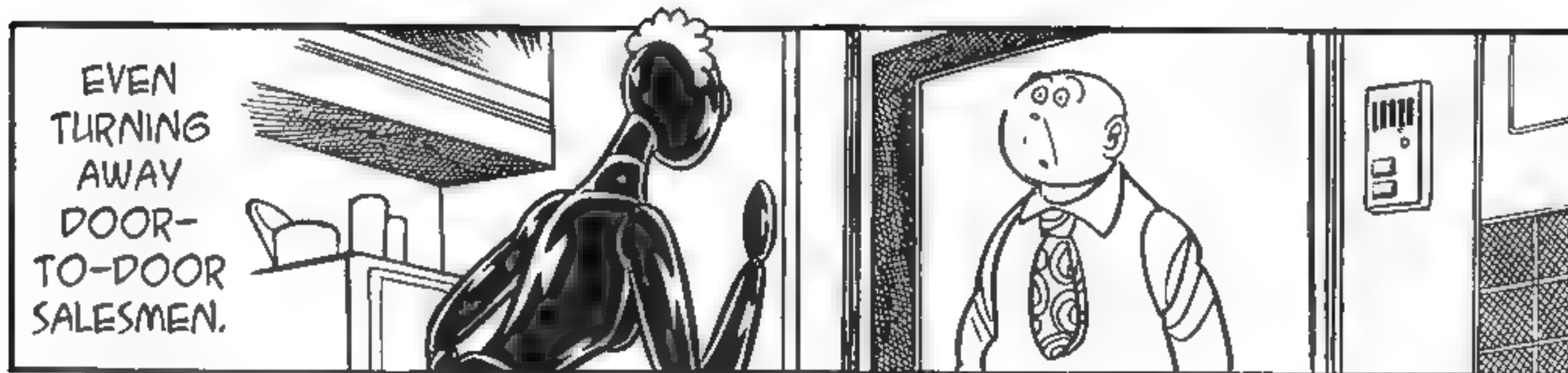








THE ROBOT
LEARNED TO DO
EVERYTHING
A HOUSEKEEPER
DOES:
TENDING
CHILDREN,
CLEANING,
COOKING,



AS SOON AS
HER MASTER
GOT HOME,
THE ROBOT
GAVE IT A TRY.
SHE SQUEEZED HIM
WITH ALL OF
HER MIGHT.
HIS BONES SNAPPED
IN HER ARMS,
BUT SHE HELD
HIM TIGHT FOR
A WHOLE HOUR.



THE ROBOT
STARED
AT HER
MASTER'S
CRUMPLED
BODY
AND
COCKED
HER
HEAD.

I LOVED
YOU SO.
WASN'T IT
ENOUGH?



ROBOTS AND
SYNTHIANS MAY
NOT BE THE SAME,
BUT BOTH WERE
ORIGINALLY
CREATED BY
HUMAN BEINGS.



SYNTHIANS
MAY SEE
HUMANS AS
INFERIOR AND
REPULSIVE...
BUT LOVE...
LOVE BELONGS
TO HUMAN
BEINGS!

TRY AS AN
ARTIFICIAL BEING
MIGHT, YOU CAN'T
IMITATE LOVE.



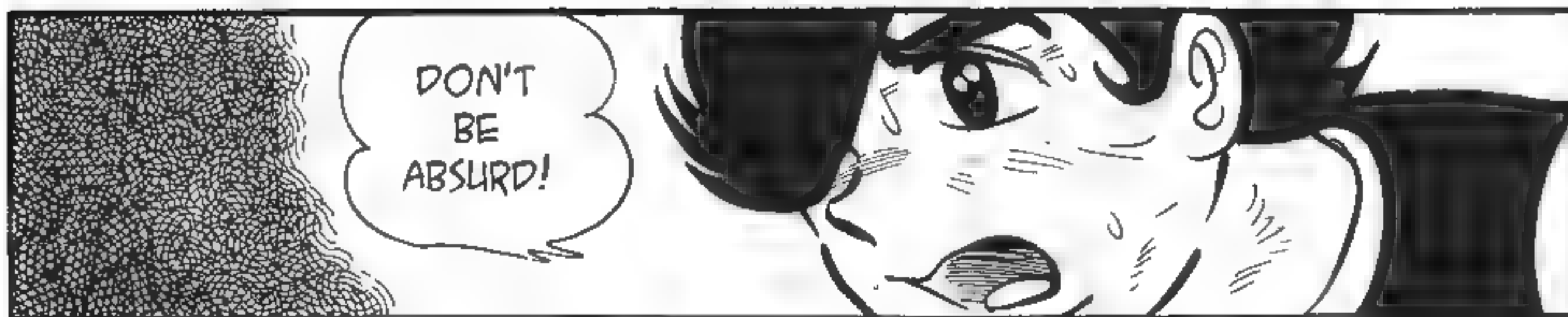
THAT'S NOT
TRUE!
I'M ON
THE VERGE OF
MASTERING
LOVE!

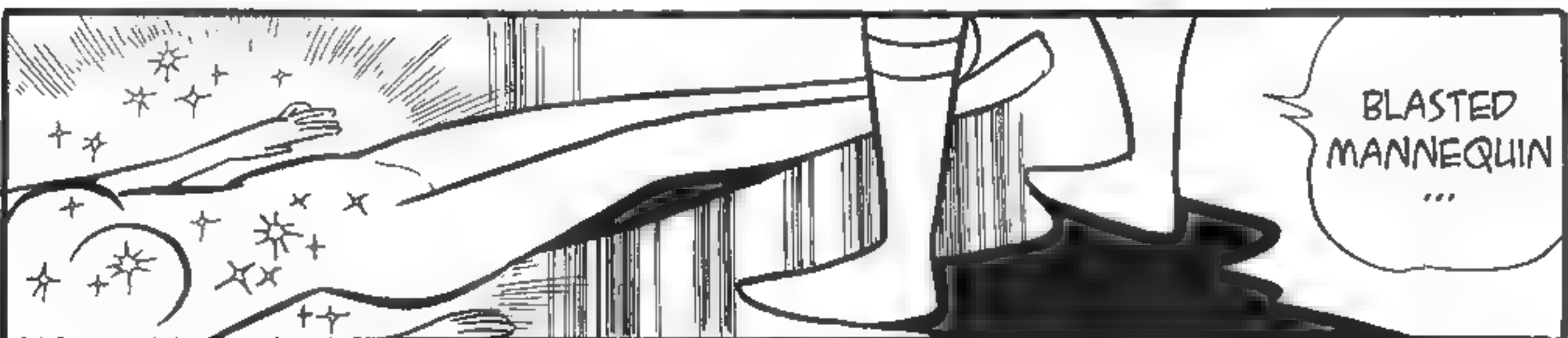


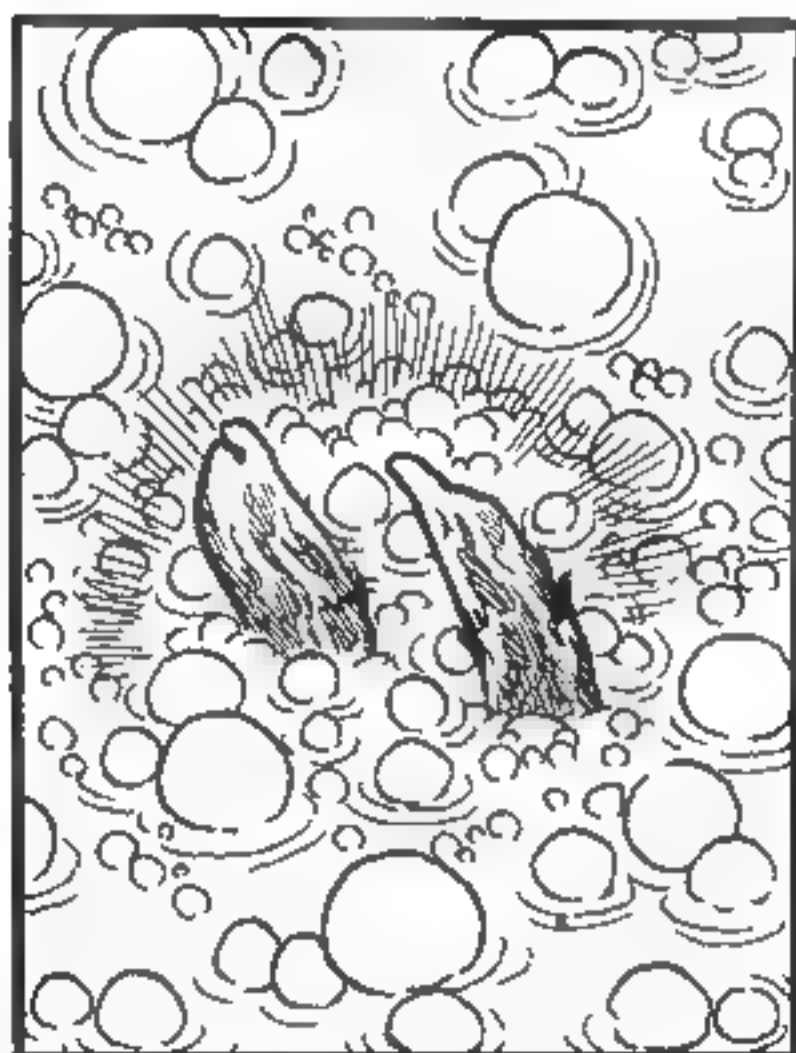
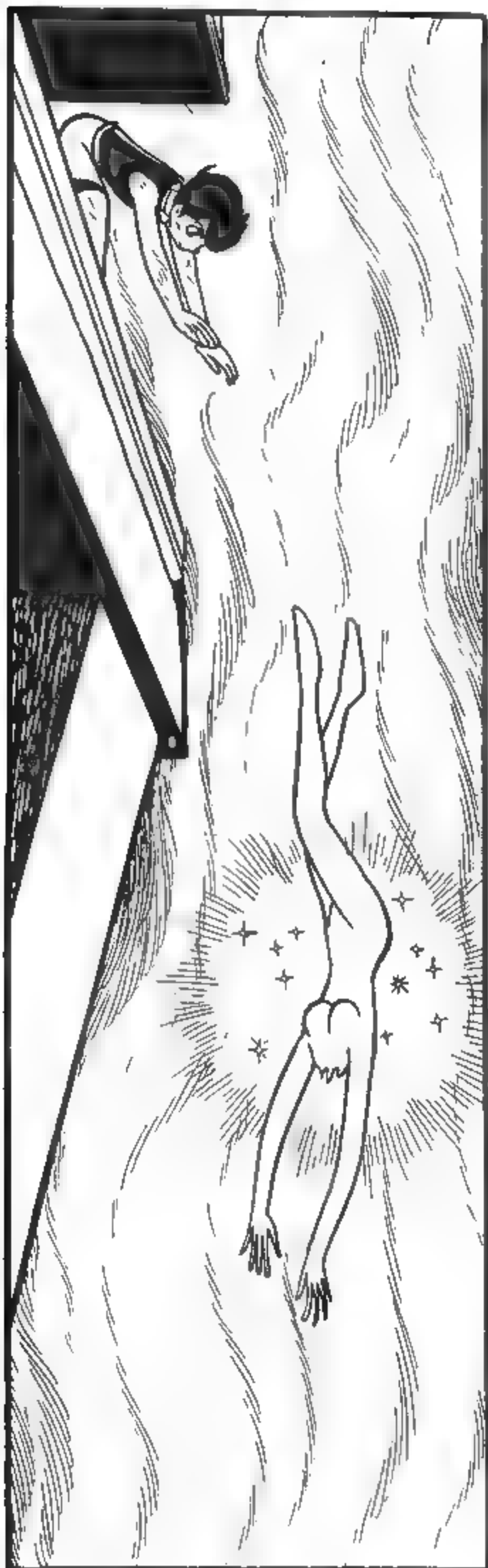
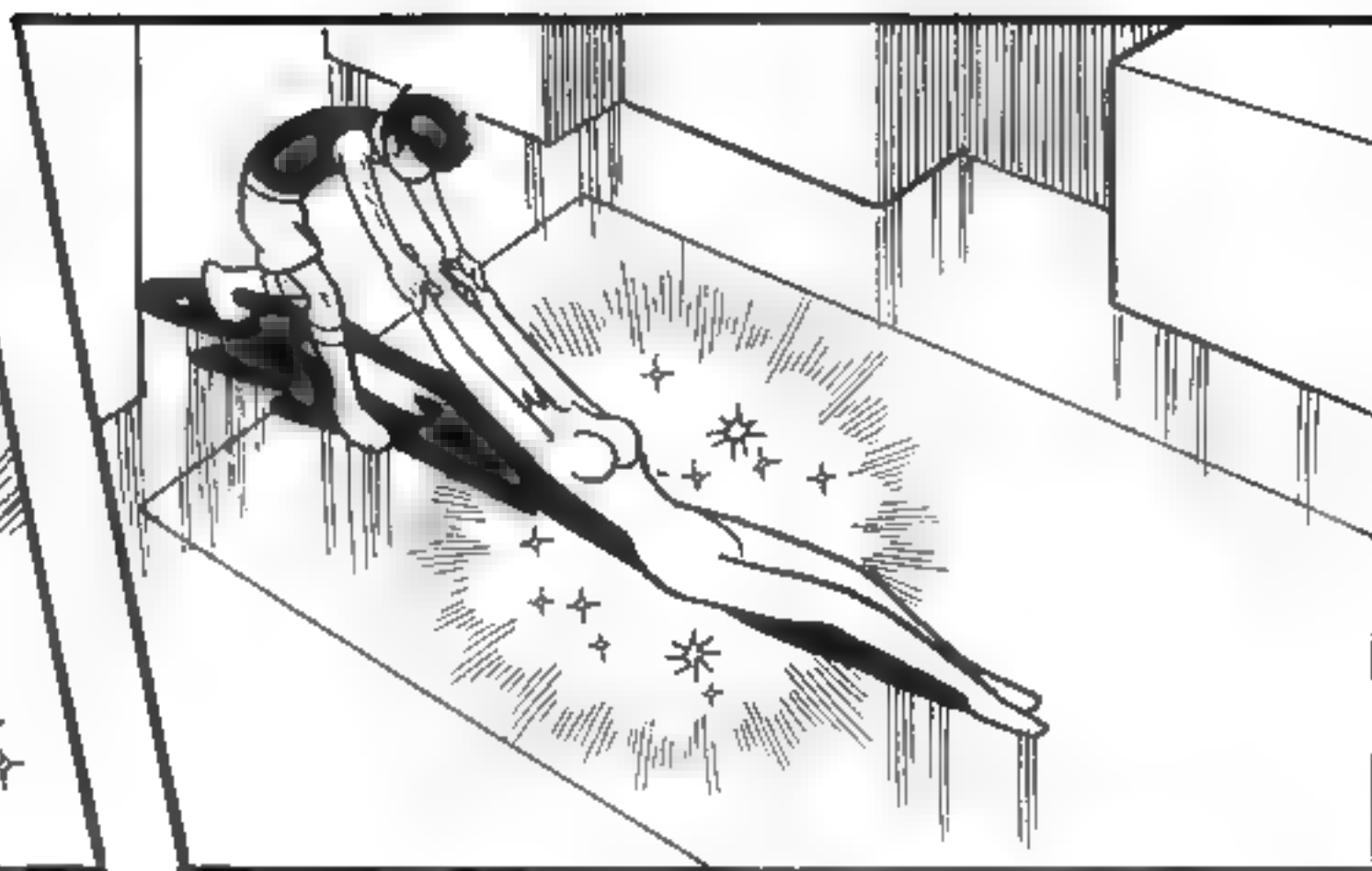
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HEAR
MY
PROOF?

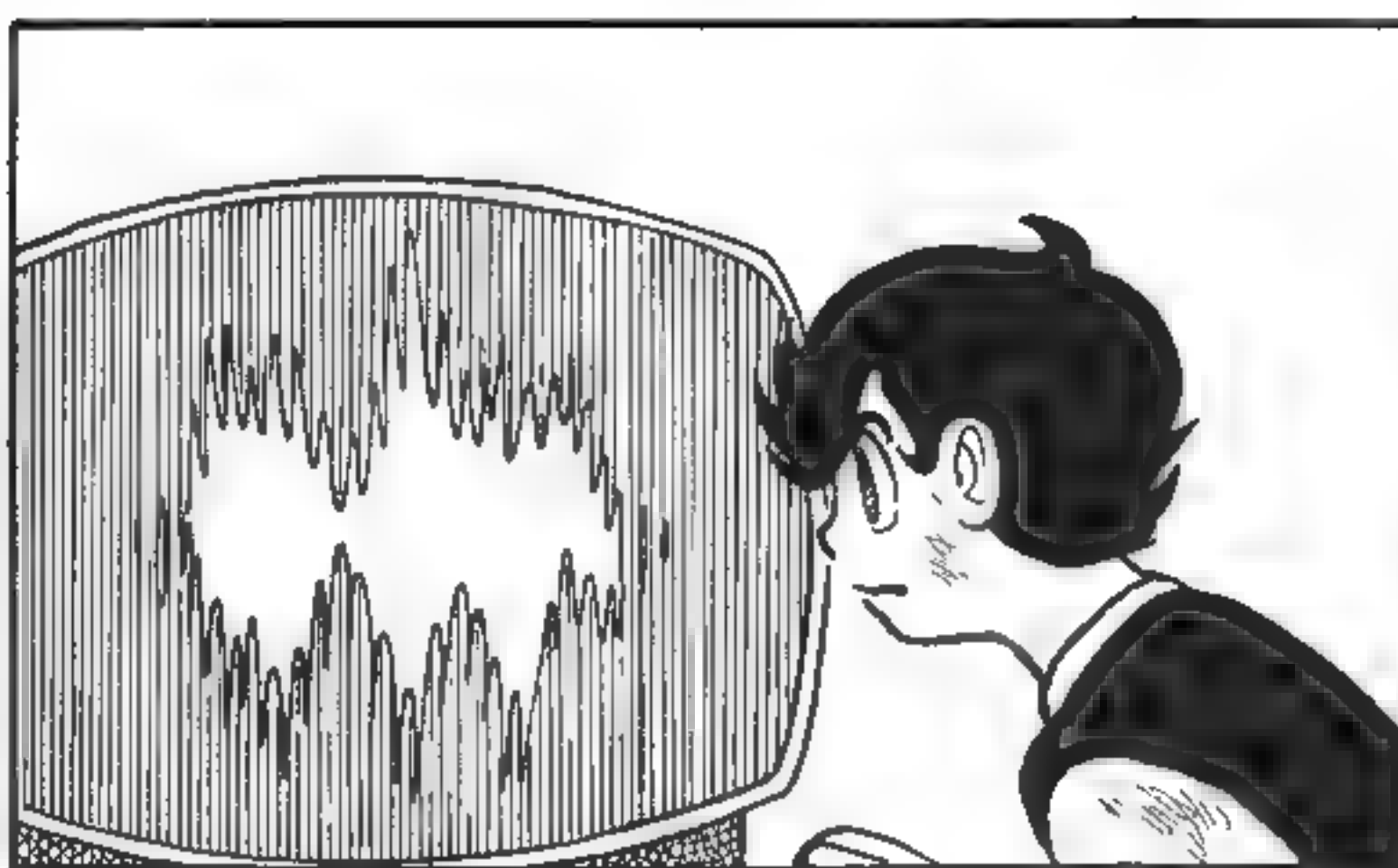
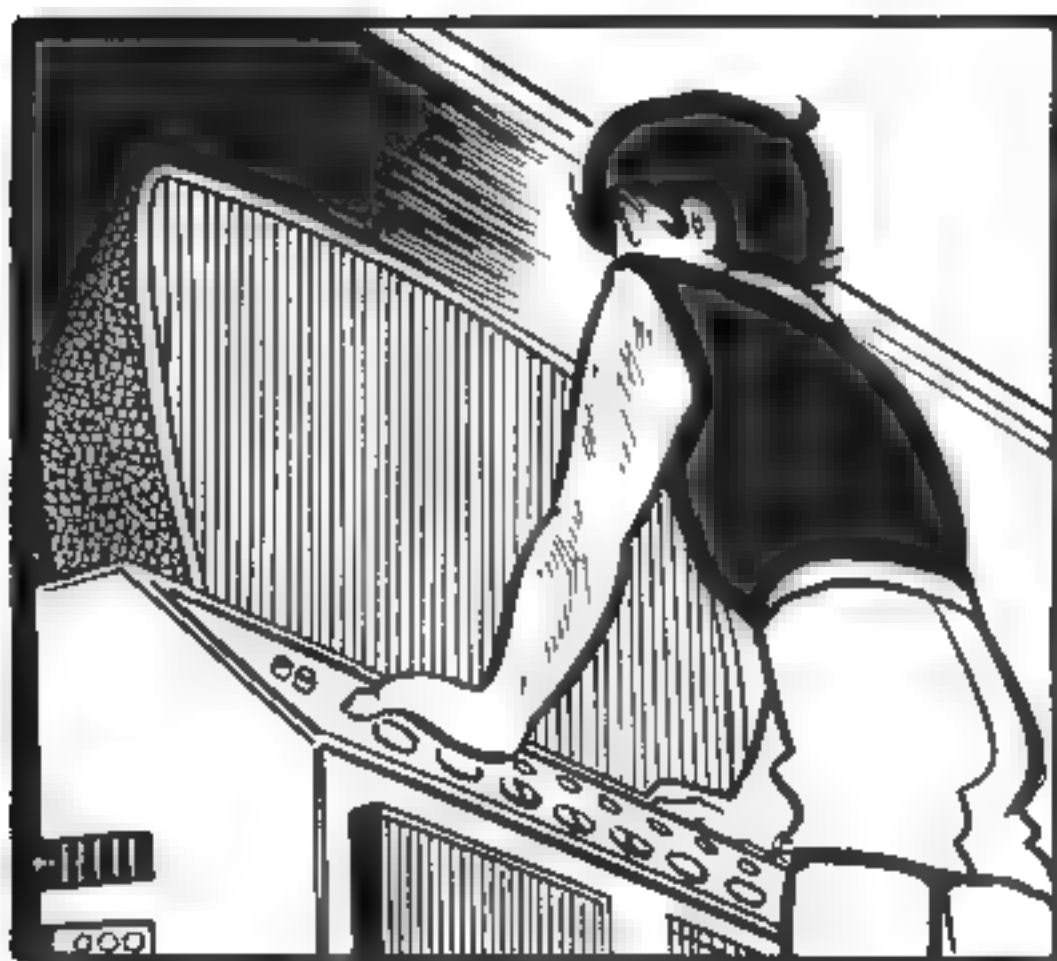
I LOVE
YOU!



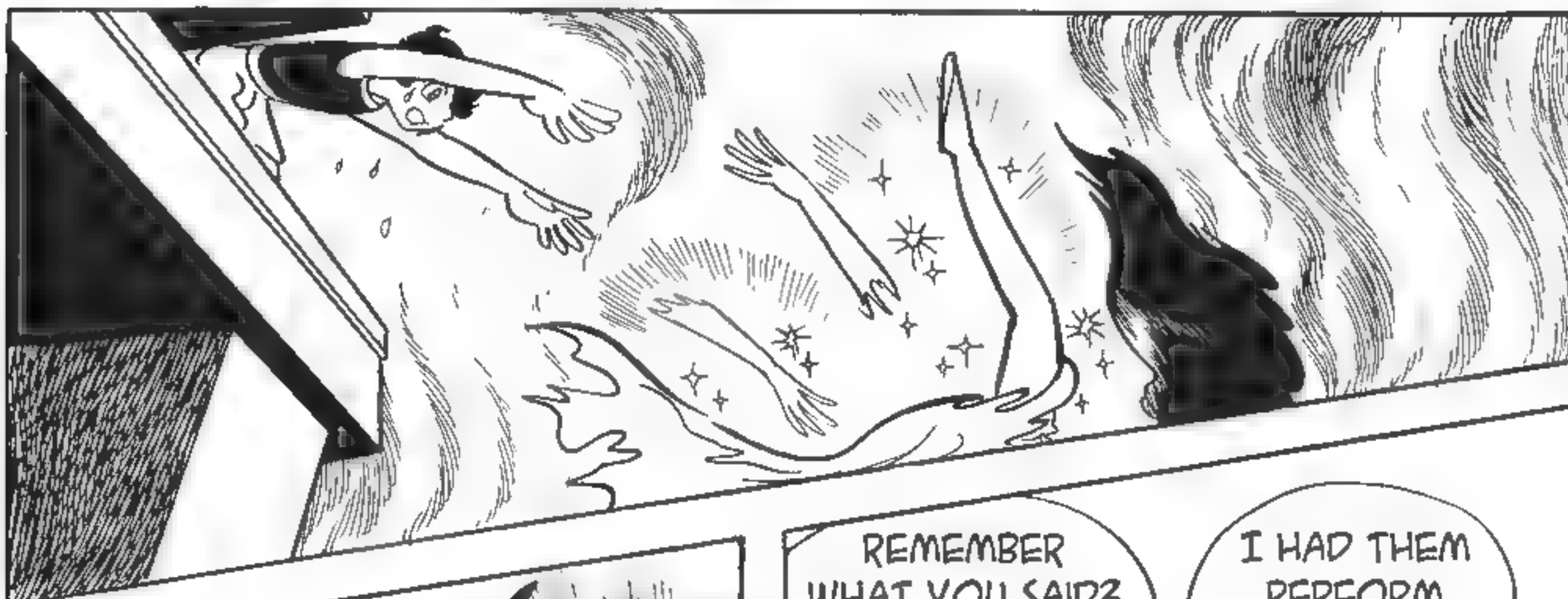














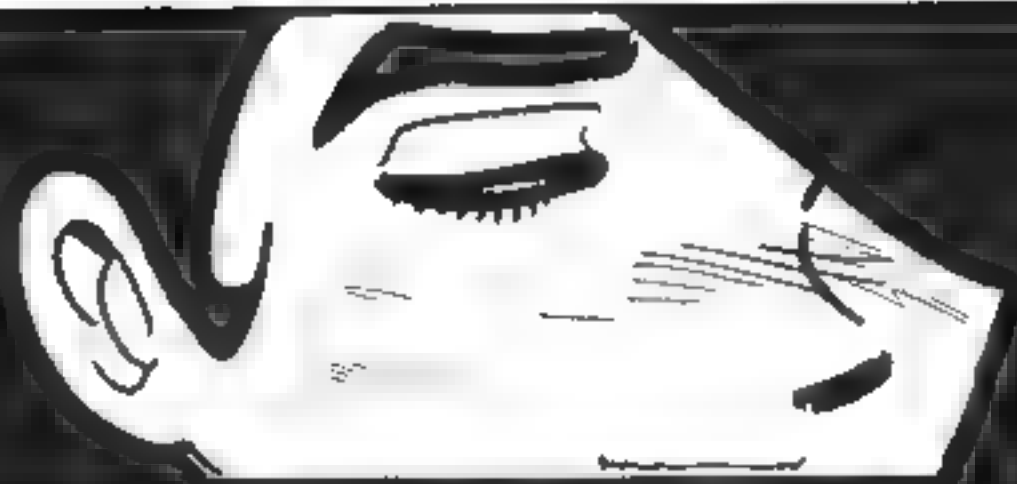
NOW MY BODY
IS EXACTLY LIKE
THAT OF A
HUMAN BEING!

LOOK AT ME NOW,
SHOGO!



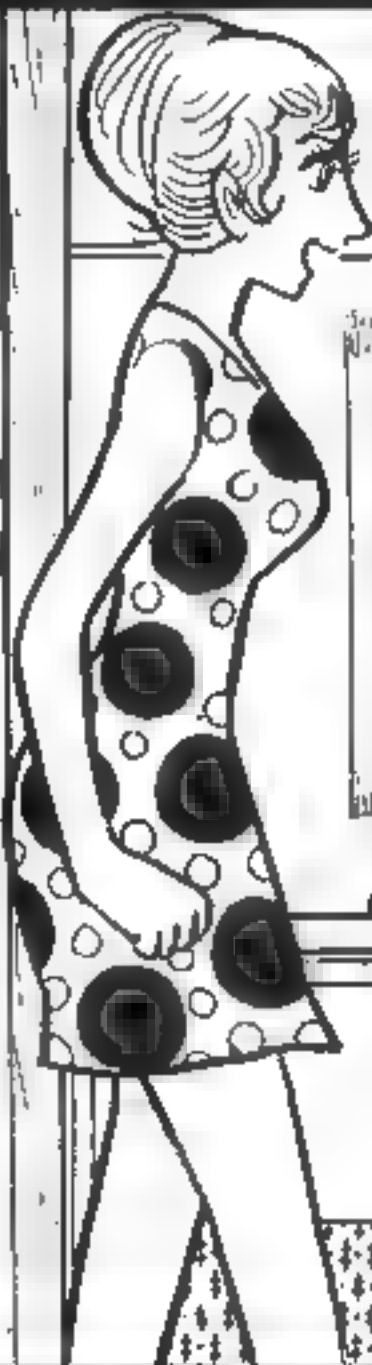






FOR EXAMPLE,
ONE TIME...

GET OUT!
SHOGO,
YOU'RE
NO LONGER
MY SON!



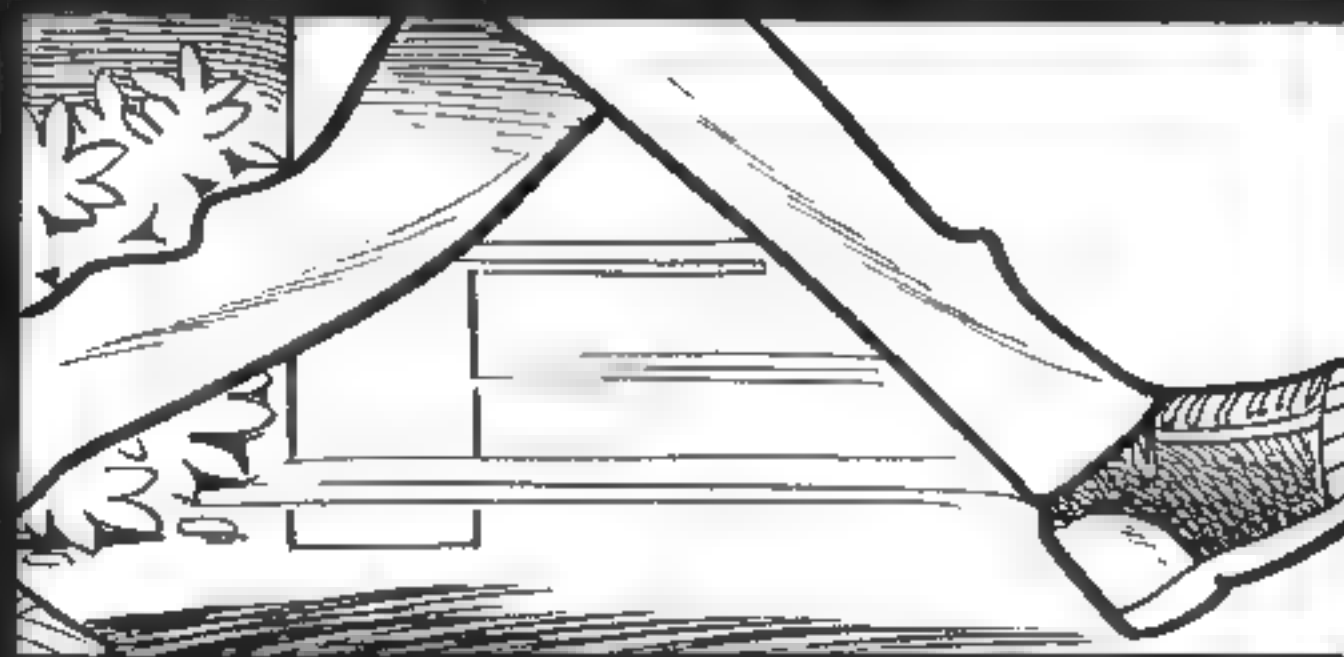
I HOPE
YOU DIE
IN A GUTTER
SOMEWHERE
!



FINE. WHO
NEEDS
A MOTHER
LIKE YOU
ANYWAY!

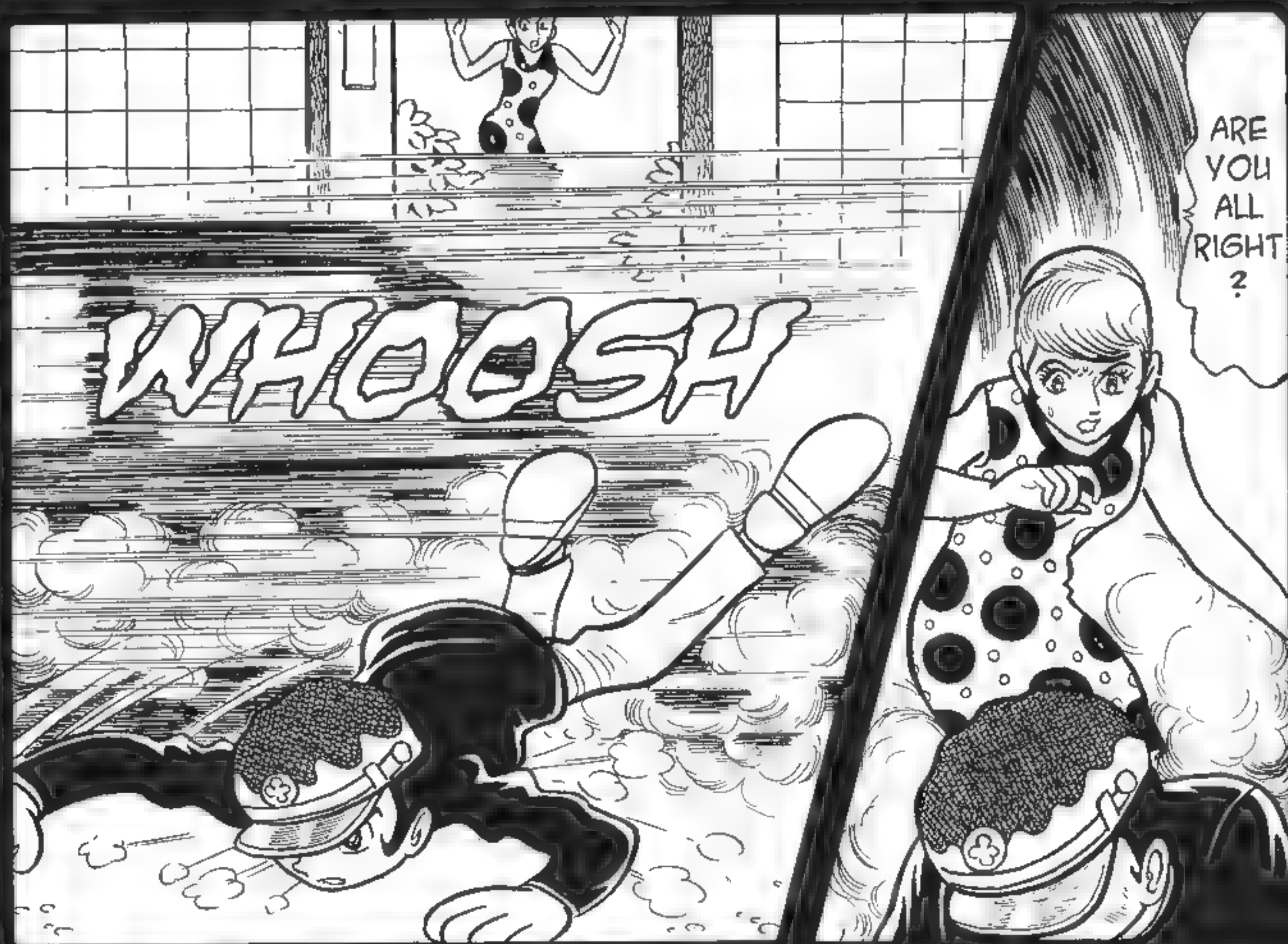


LATER,
YOU OLD
HAG!



WATCH OUT!





MOTHER'S EYES
THAT TIME...
I'D NEVER SEEN HER
THAT WAY BEFORE.
HER EYES SPOKE
VOLUMES...



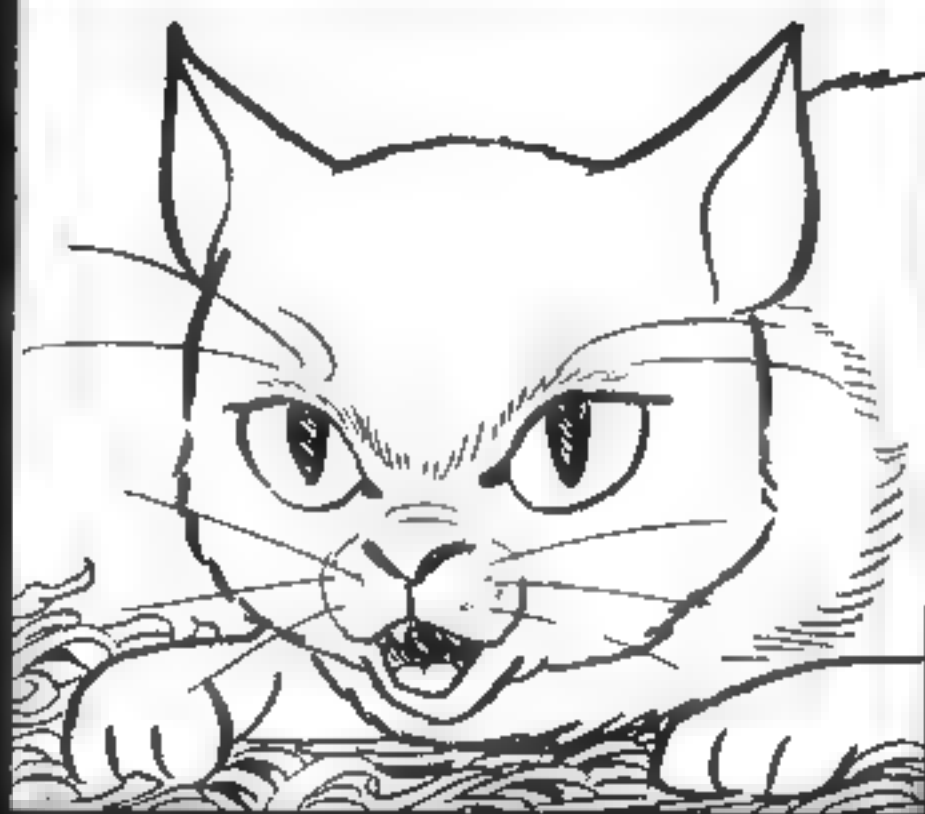
EVEN WHEN YOU
HATE SOMEONE,
SOMETIMES
SOMETHING
UNEXPECTED CAN
UNEARTH FEELINGS
FROM DEEP IN
YOUR HEART.

CAN YOU
UNDER-
STAND
HOW THAT
FEELS?

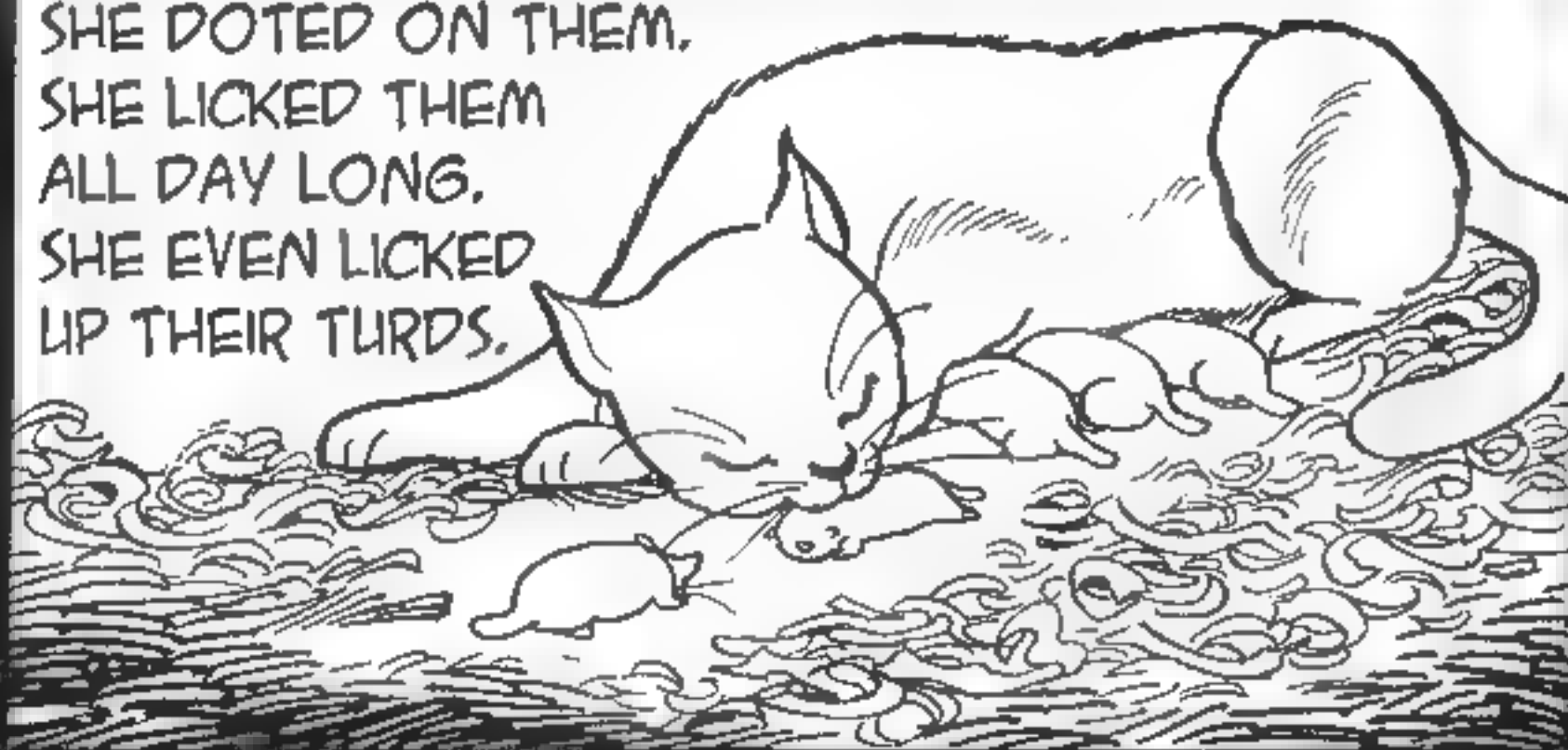
WANNA
HEAR
ANOTHER
STORY?

I HAD
STARTED
TORTURING
ANIMALS.
ONE DAY
...

A STRAY
CAT GAVE
BIRTH TO
SOME KITTENS
OFF BY
THE SIDE OF
THE ROAD.



IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE HOW
SHE DOTED ON THEM.
SHE LICKED THEM
ALL DAY LONG.
SHE EVEN LICKED
UP THEIR TURDS.



IT MADE
ME SO
ANGRY!

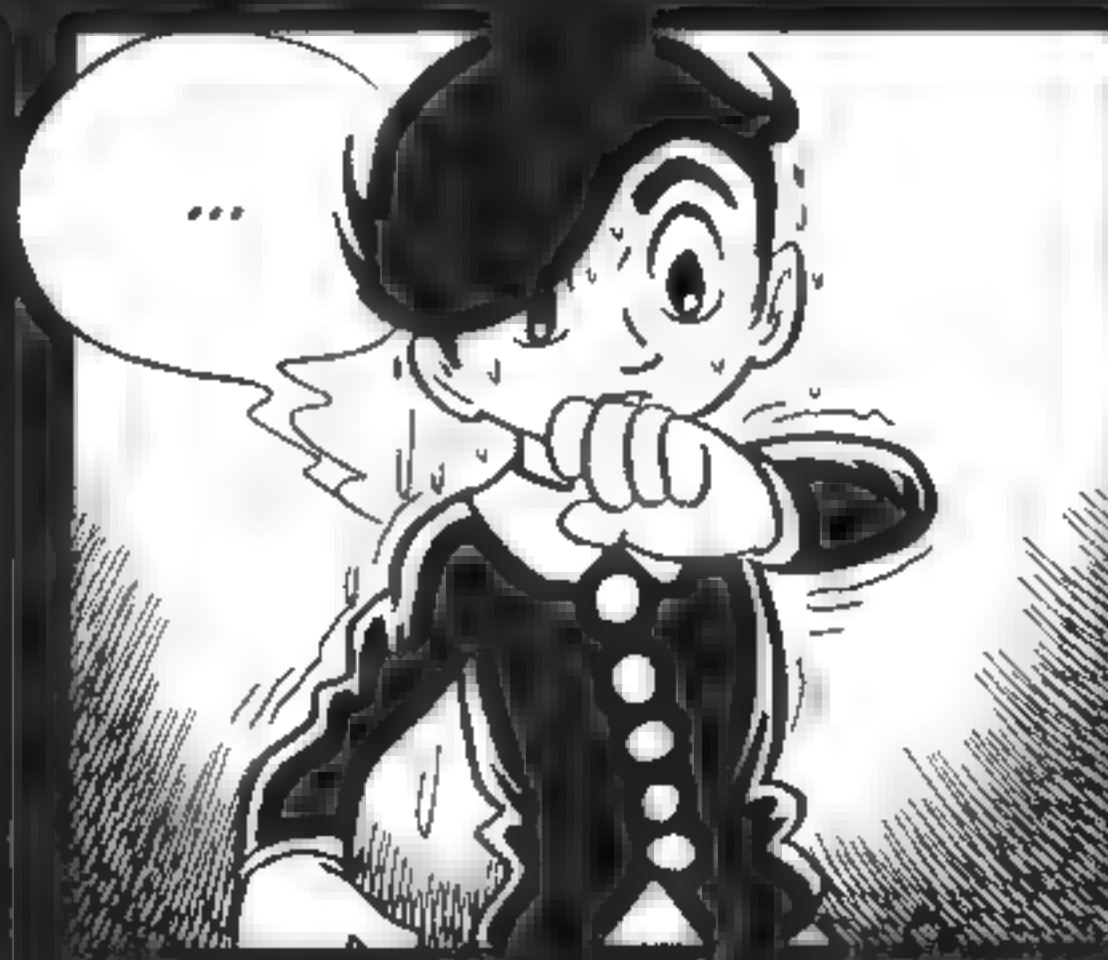
I DECIDED TO SNATCH
THE KITTENS AWAY
AND STOMP THEM
TO DEATH!



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THAT MOTHER
CAT DID?



SHE ATE
HER OWN BABIES!
I WAS SHOCKED.



IT WAS
BAFFLING:
WHEN PUSH
COMES TO
SHOVE, EVEN
PARENTS TURN
AGAINST
THEIR KIDS!



BUT LATER,
WHEN I ASKED
MY TEACHER AT
SCHOOL...



HE EXPLAINED THAT THE MOTHER
LOVED HER BABIES SO MUCH,
SHE COULDN'T
HELP DOING
WHAT SHE DID
TO KEEP
A PREDATOR
FROM GETTING
THEM.



IS THAT
SOMETHING
A
SYNTHIAN
CAN
UNDER-
STAND?



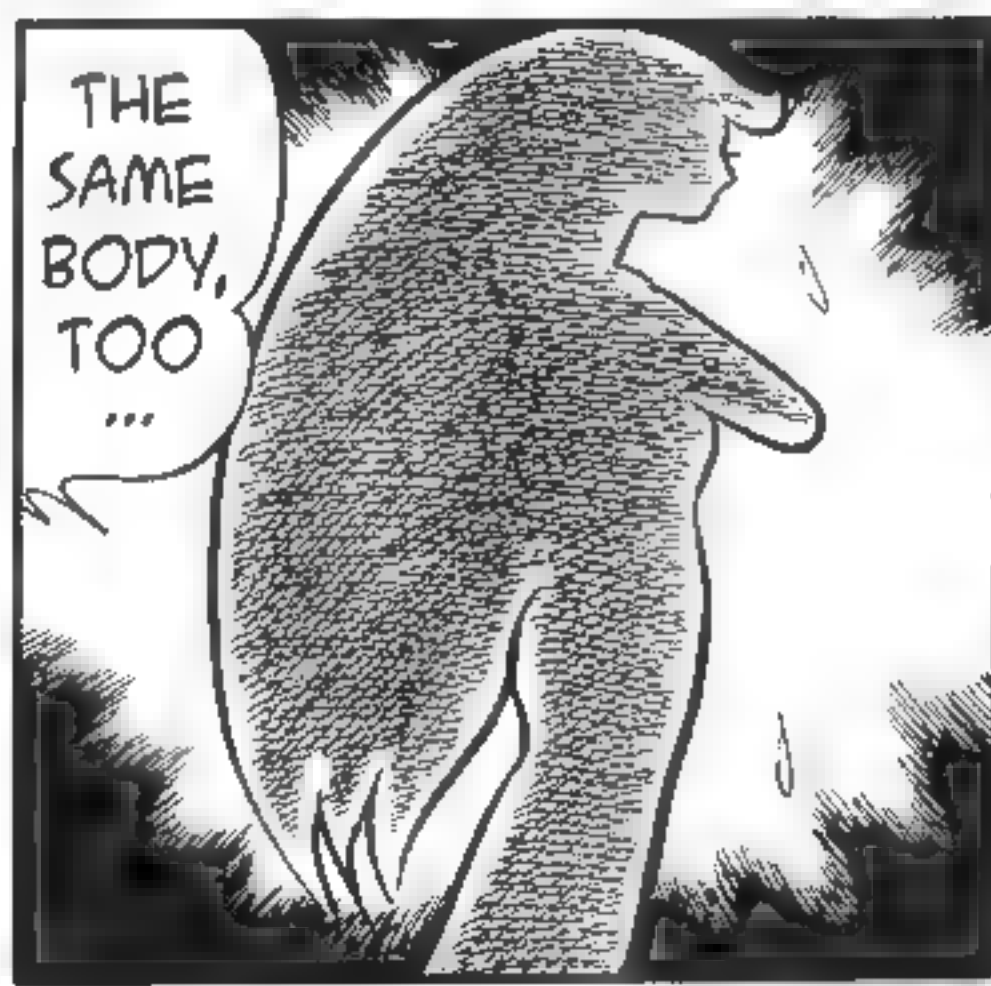
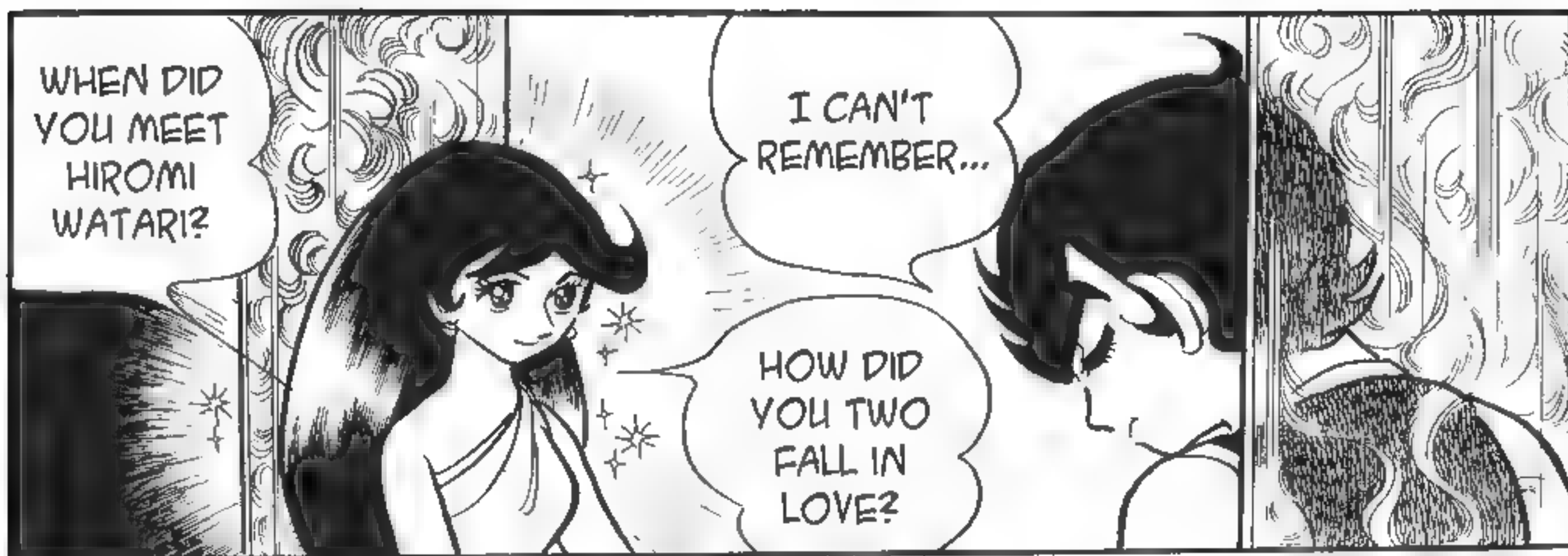
ENOUGH
OF THESE
STORIES
!



I
ONLY WANT
TO HEAR
ABOUT
YOU!

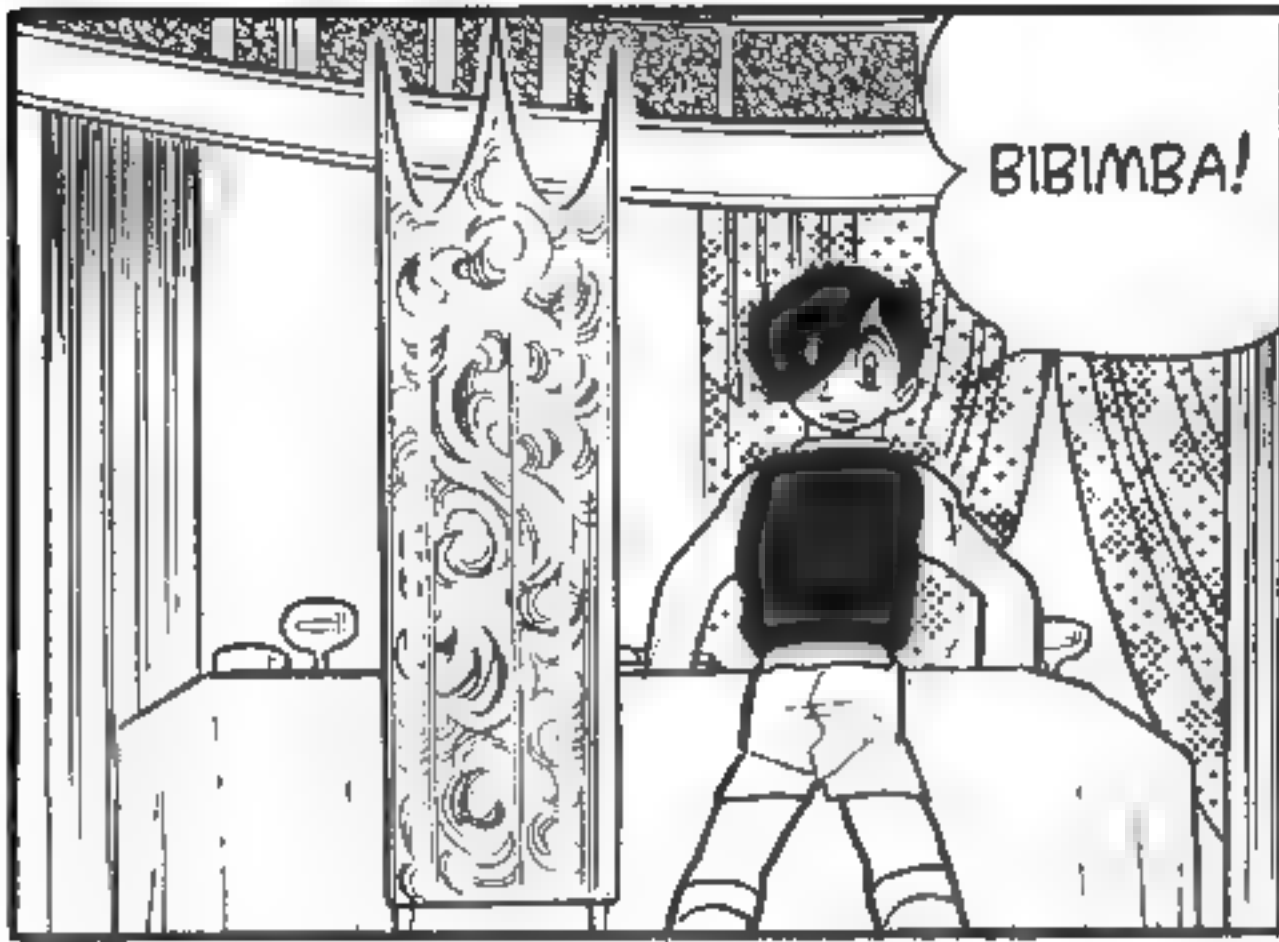


TELL ME
MORE
ABOUT
YOUR-
SELF!









BIBIMBA!



QUEEN,
THE
ROYAL
CENTER
HAS TOLD
ME
EVERY-
THING.

PLEASE
REMOVE
YOUR
CLOTHING.



I DON'T
WANT TO USE
FORCE...
YOUR
CLOTHING,
PLEASE...

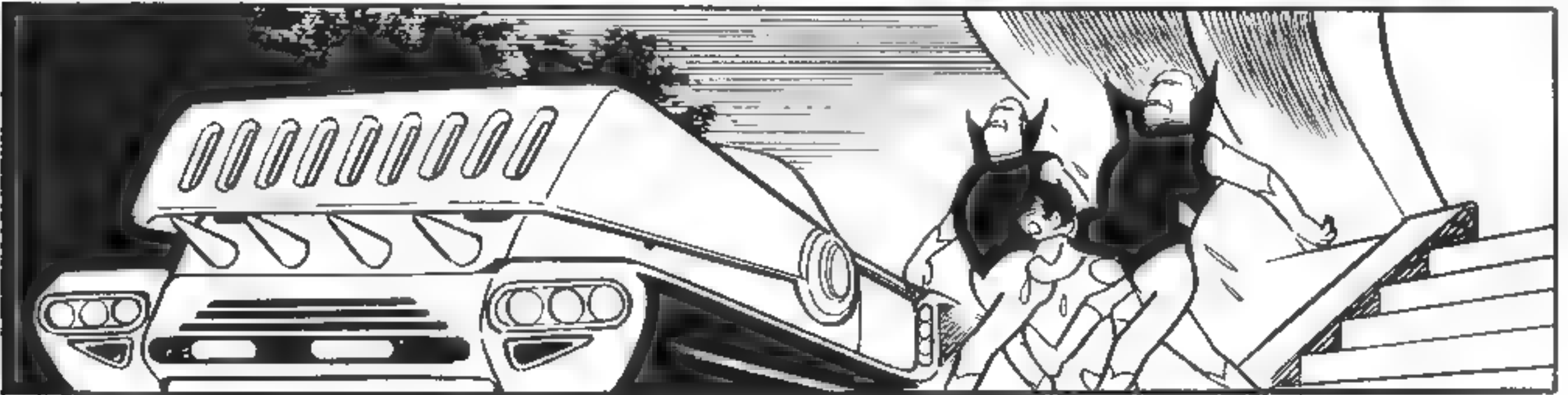
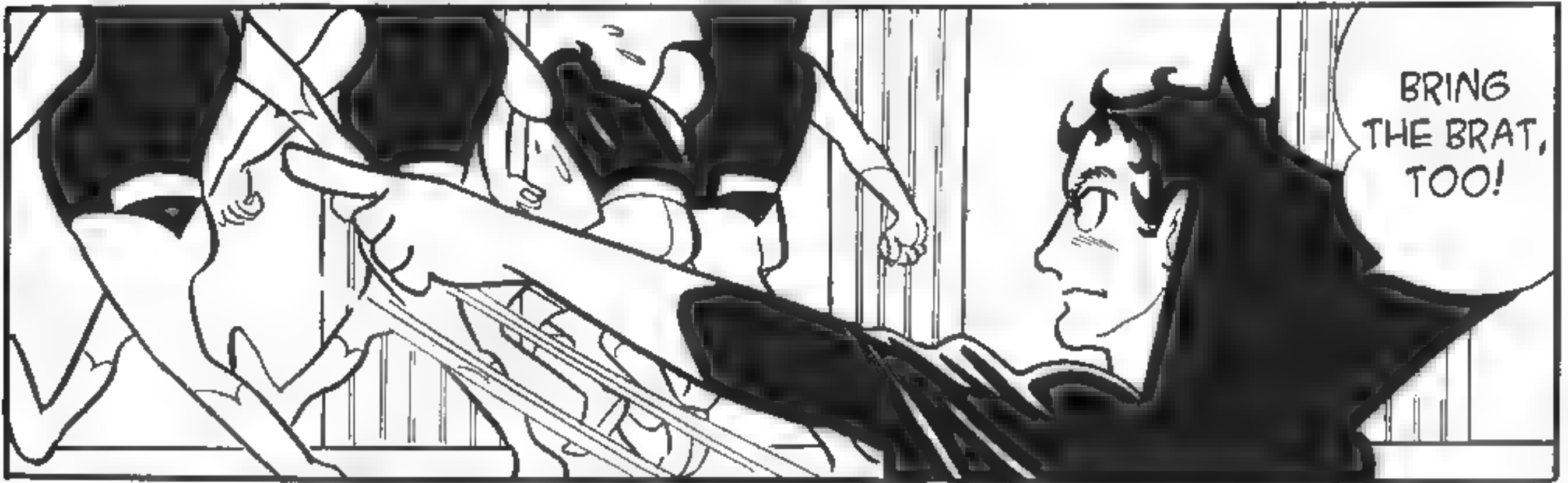


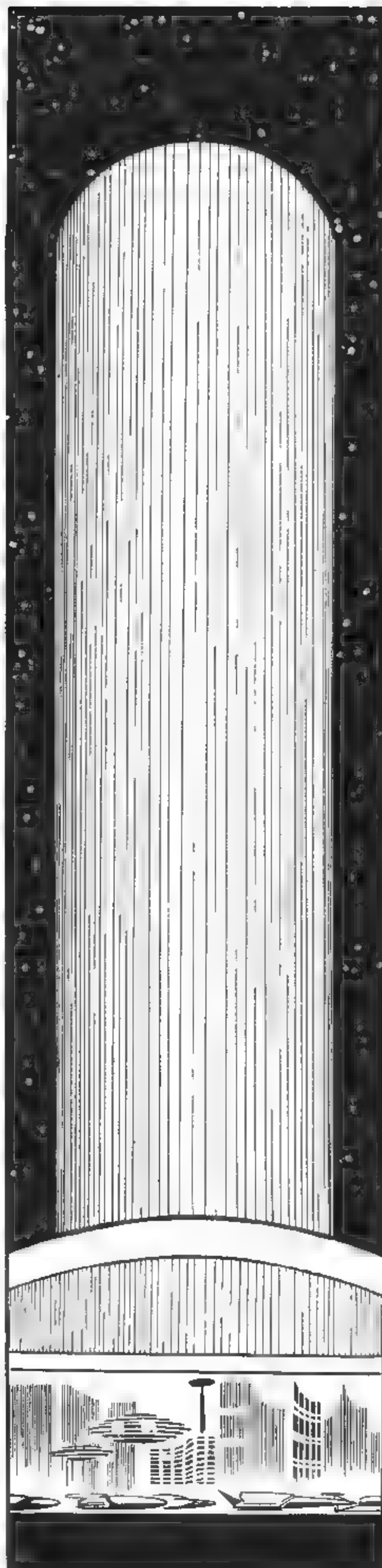
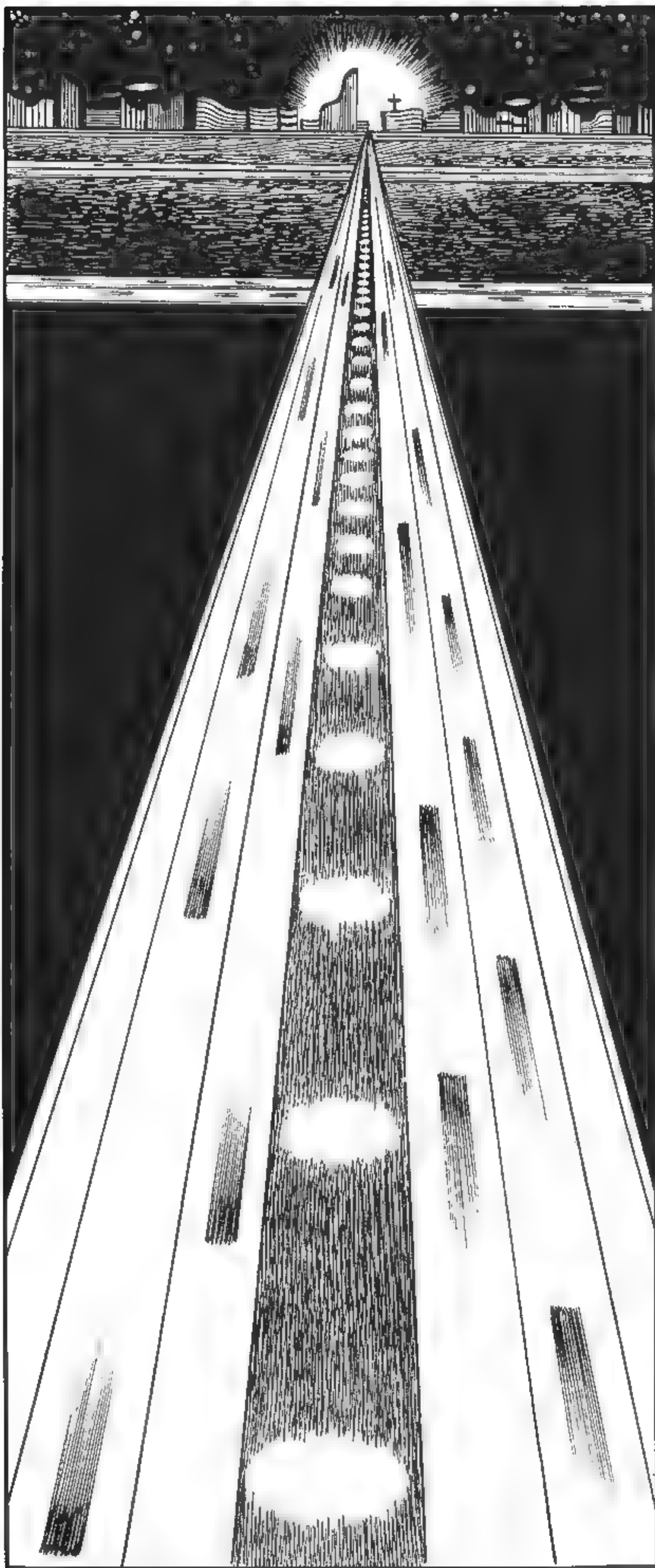
SO YOU
DID HAVE
THE
OPERATION!

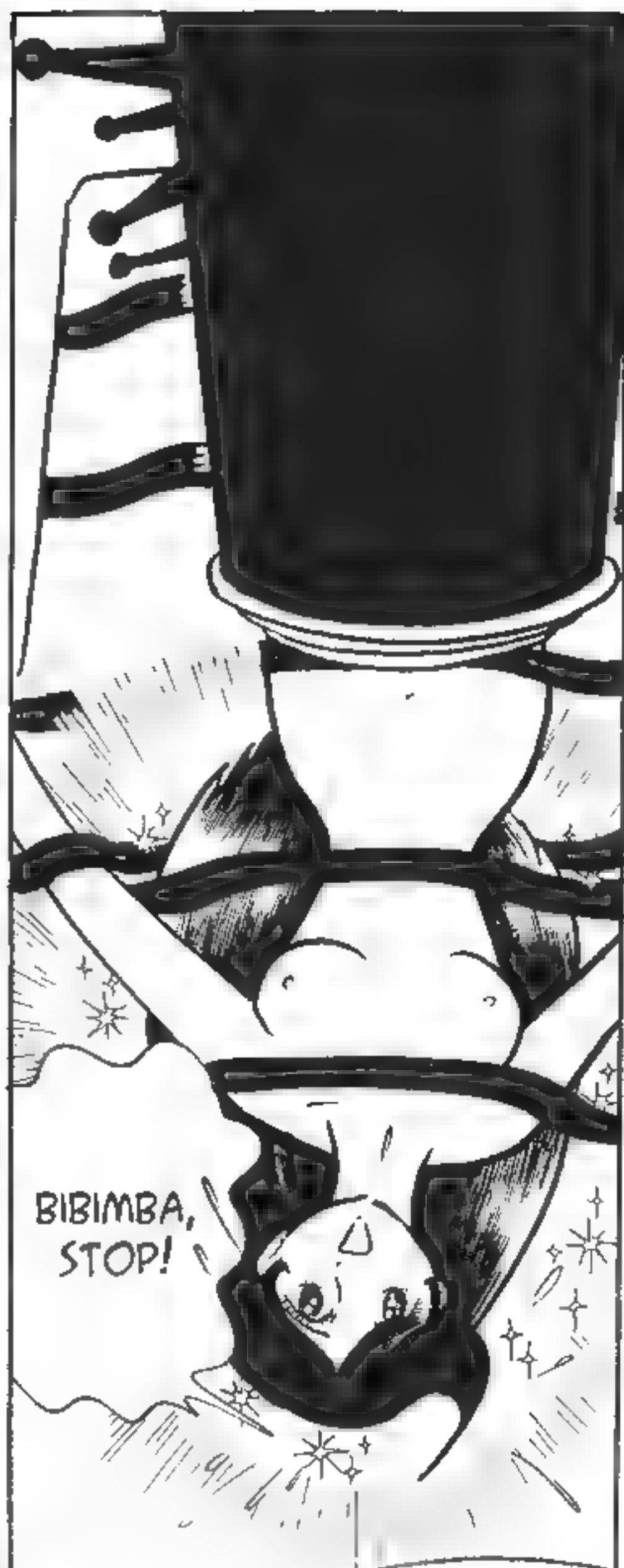


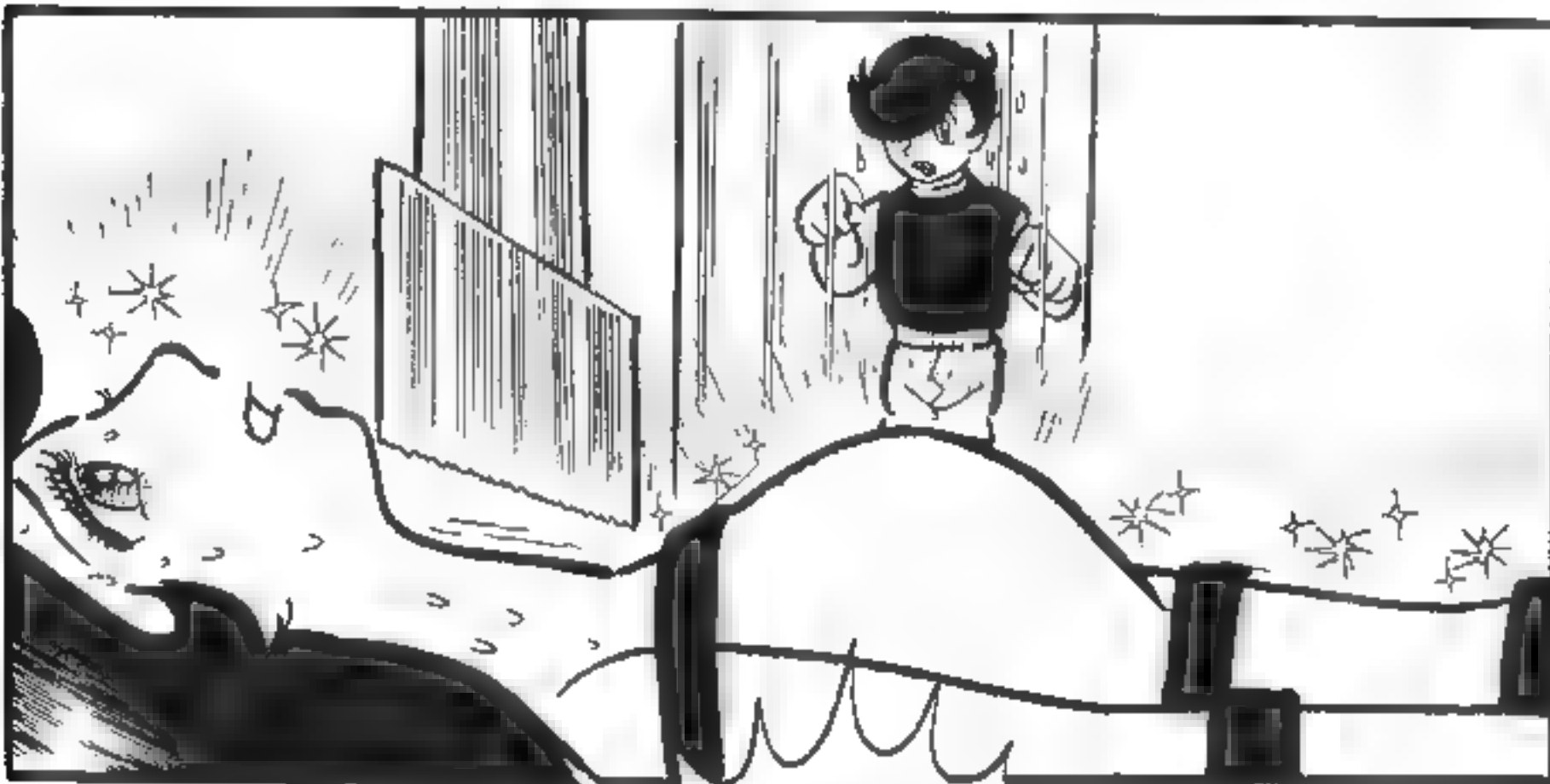
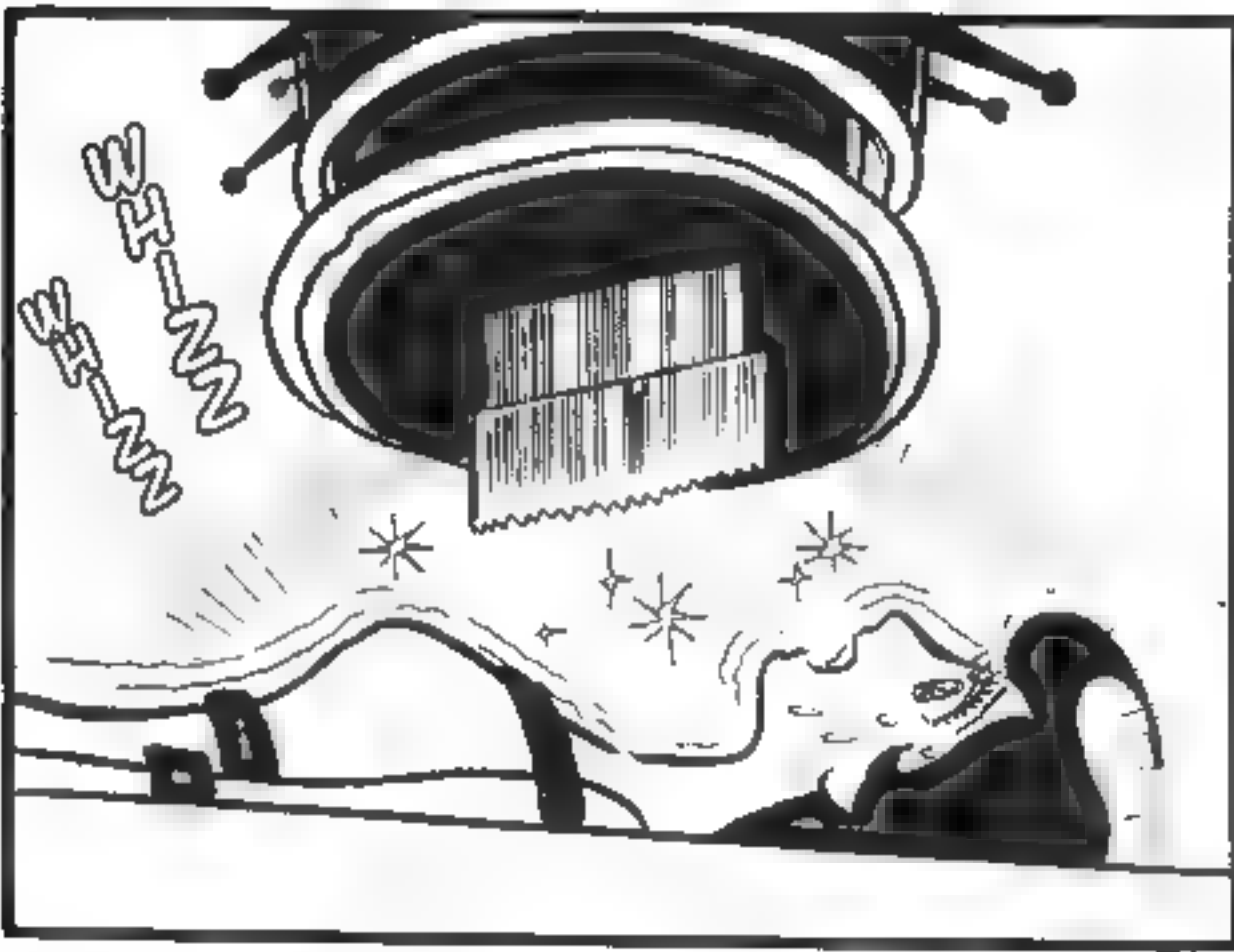




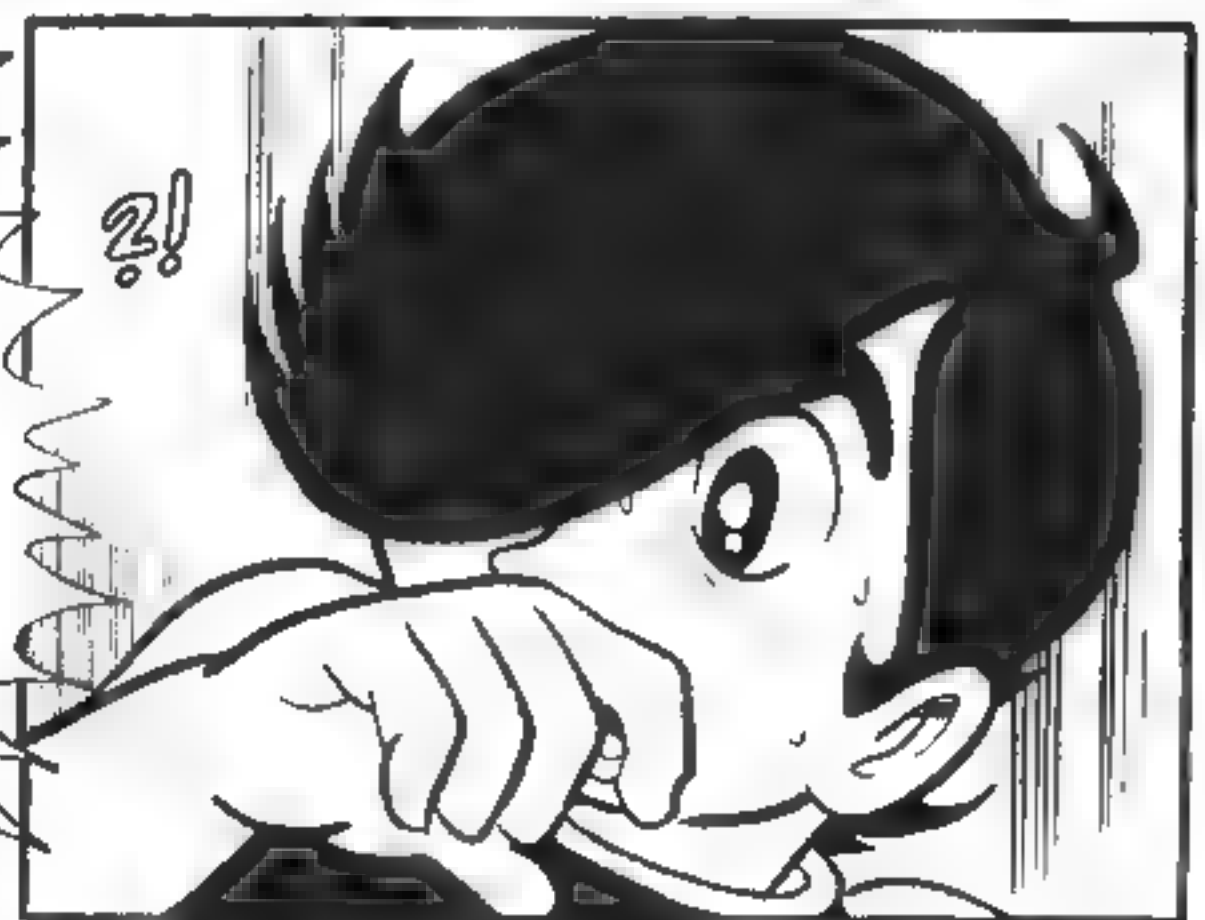


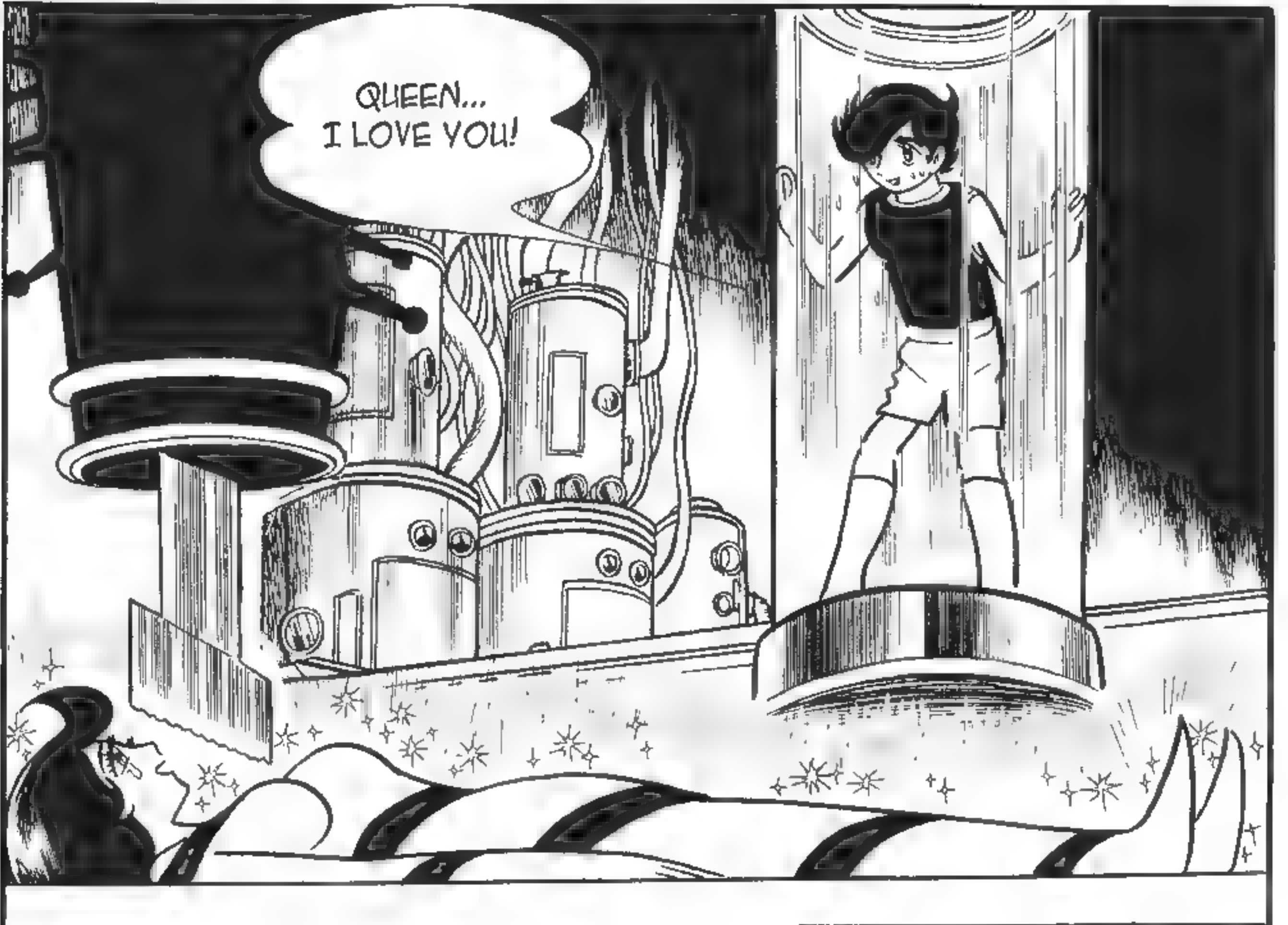
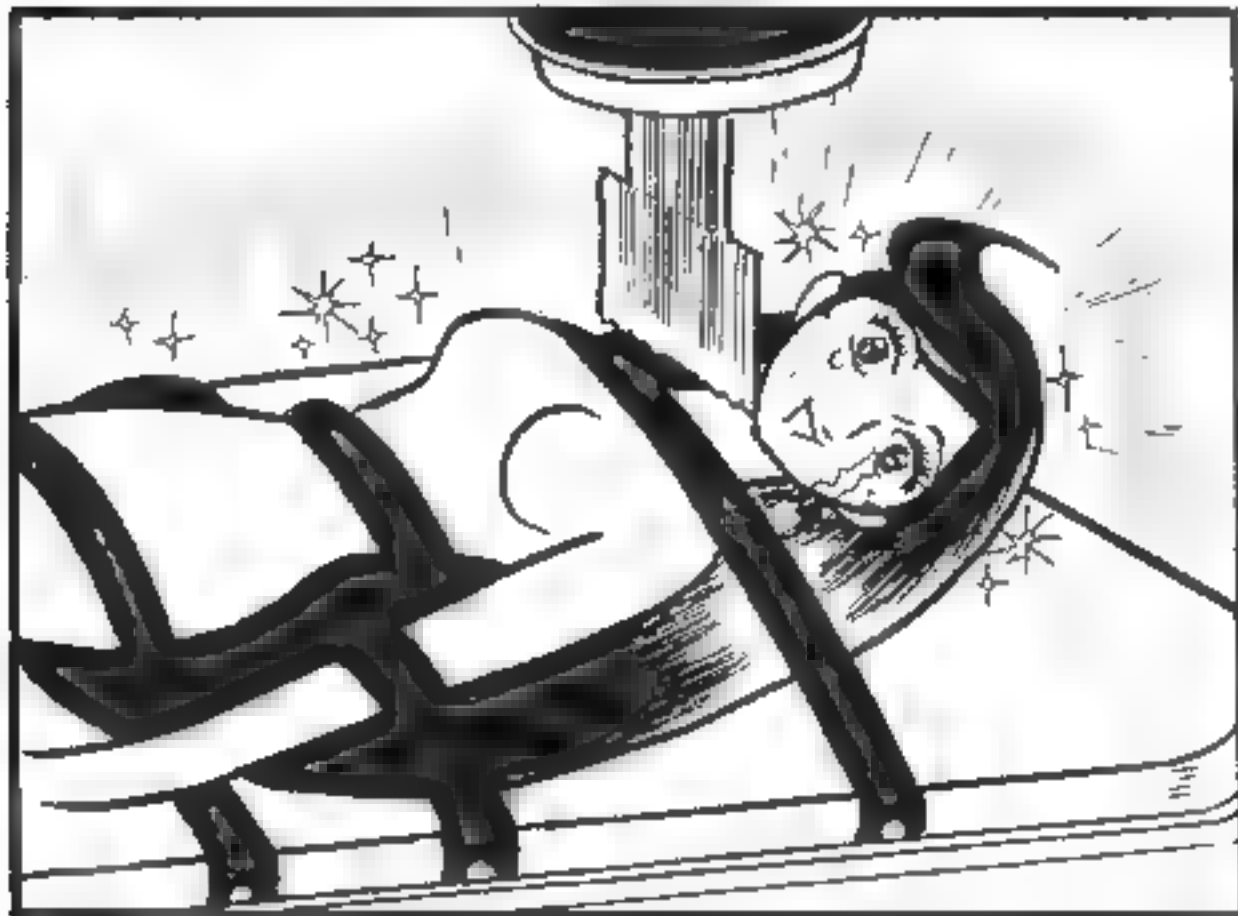


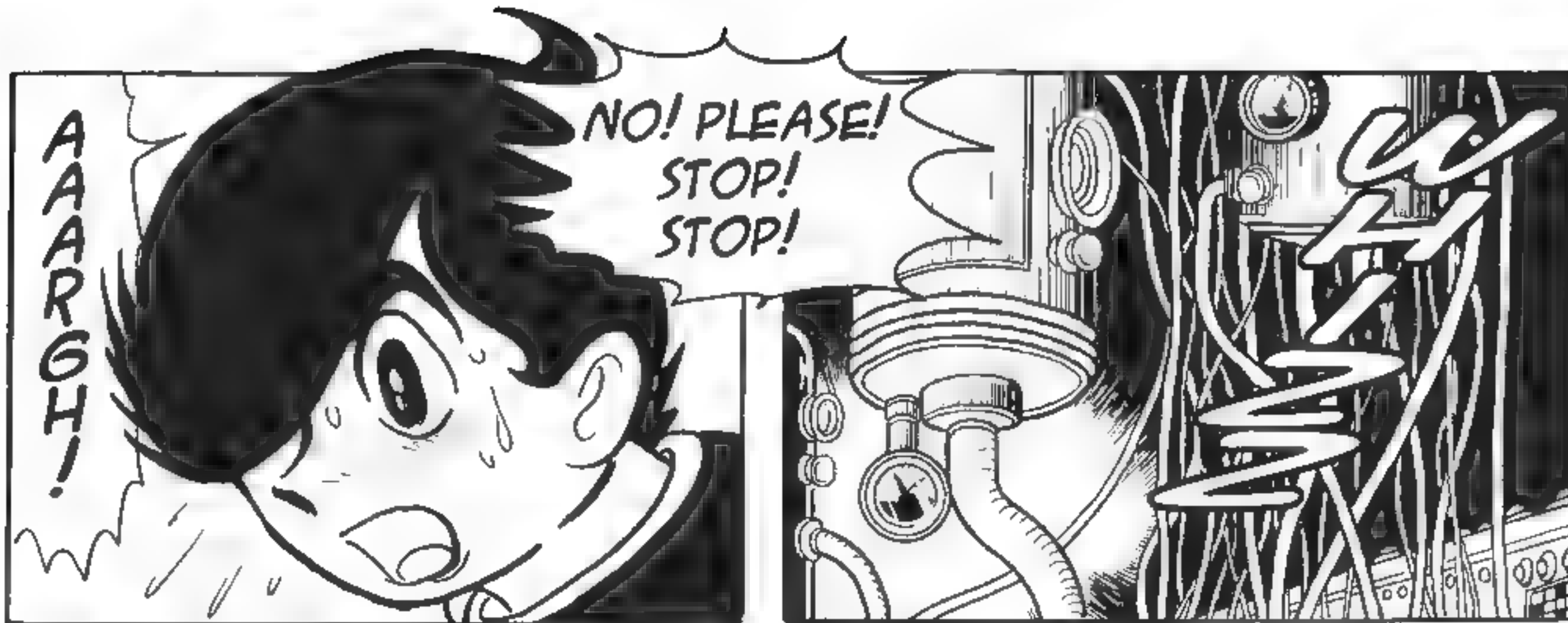


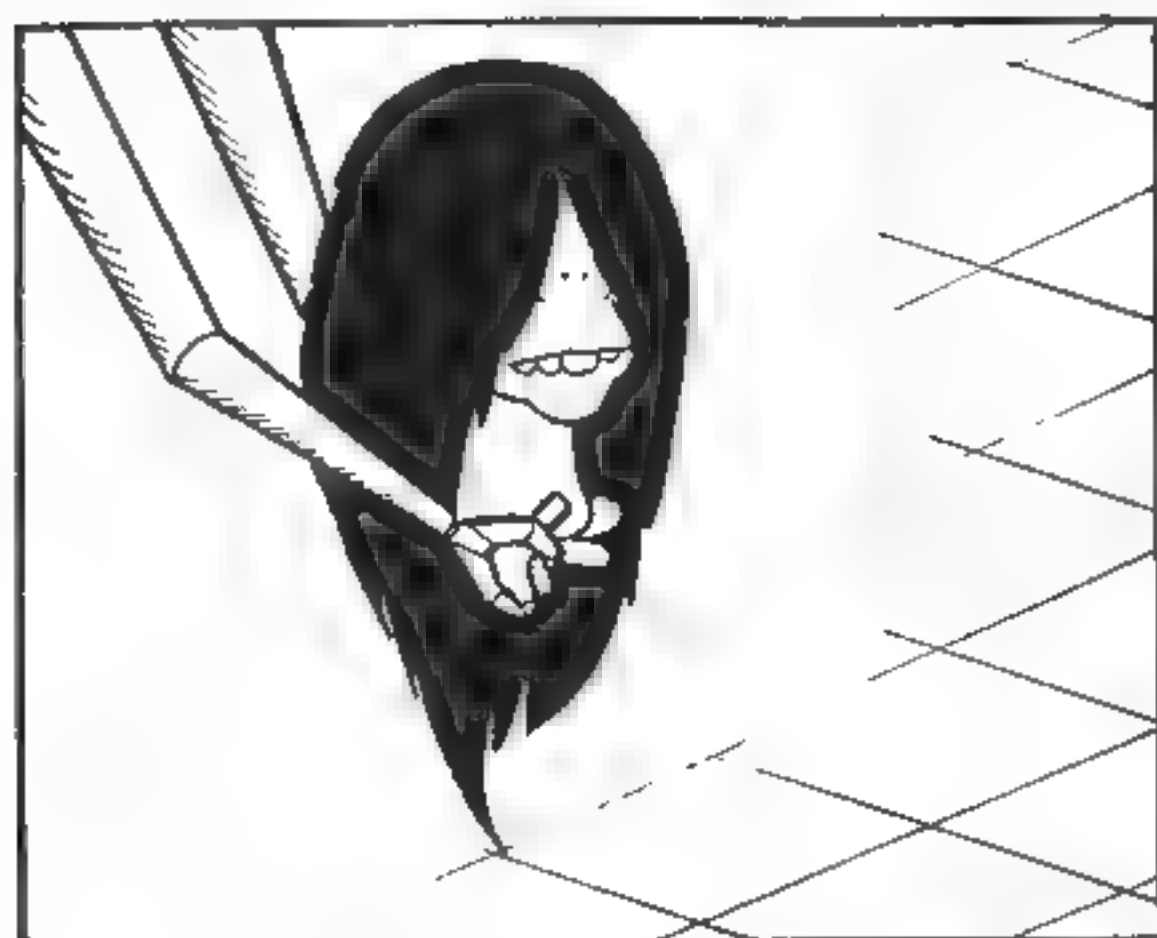
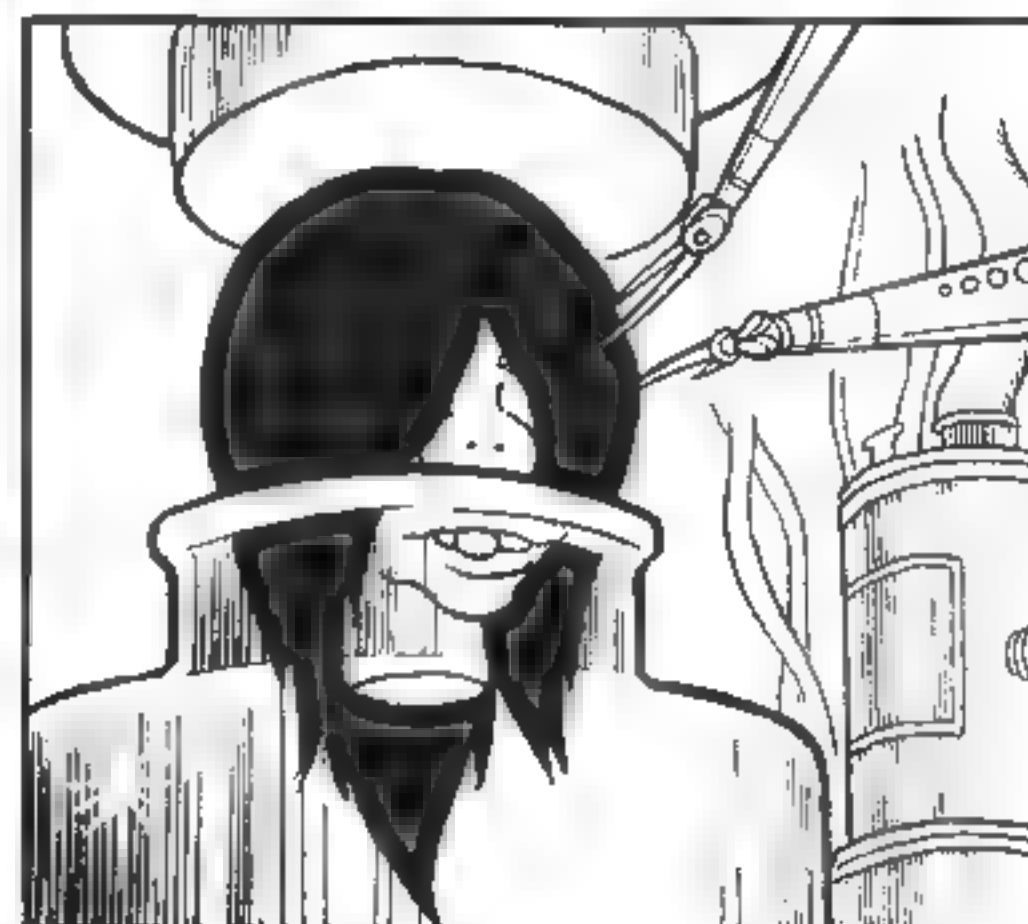
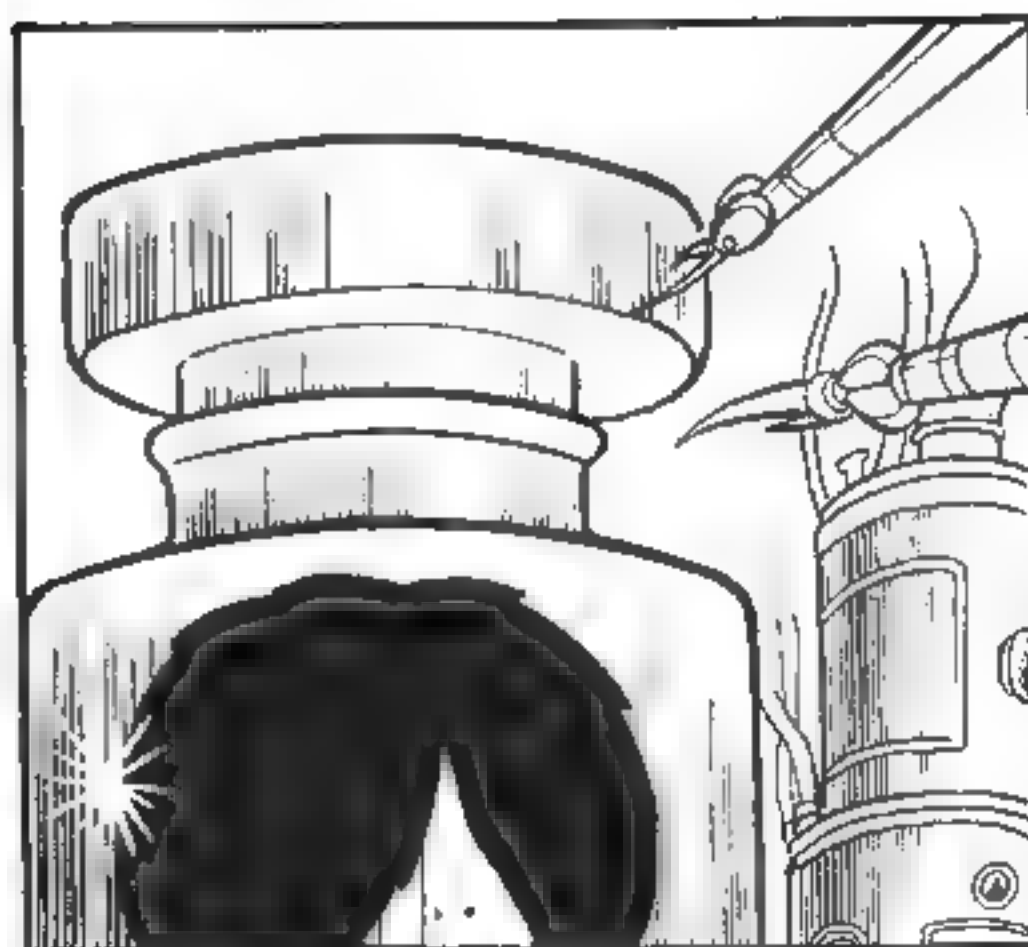


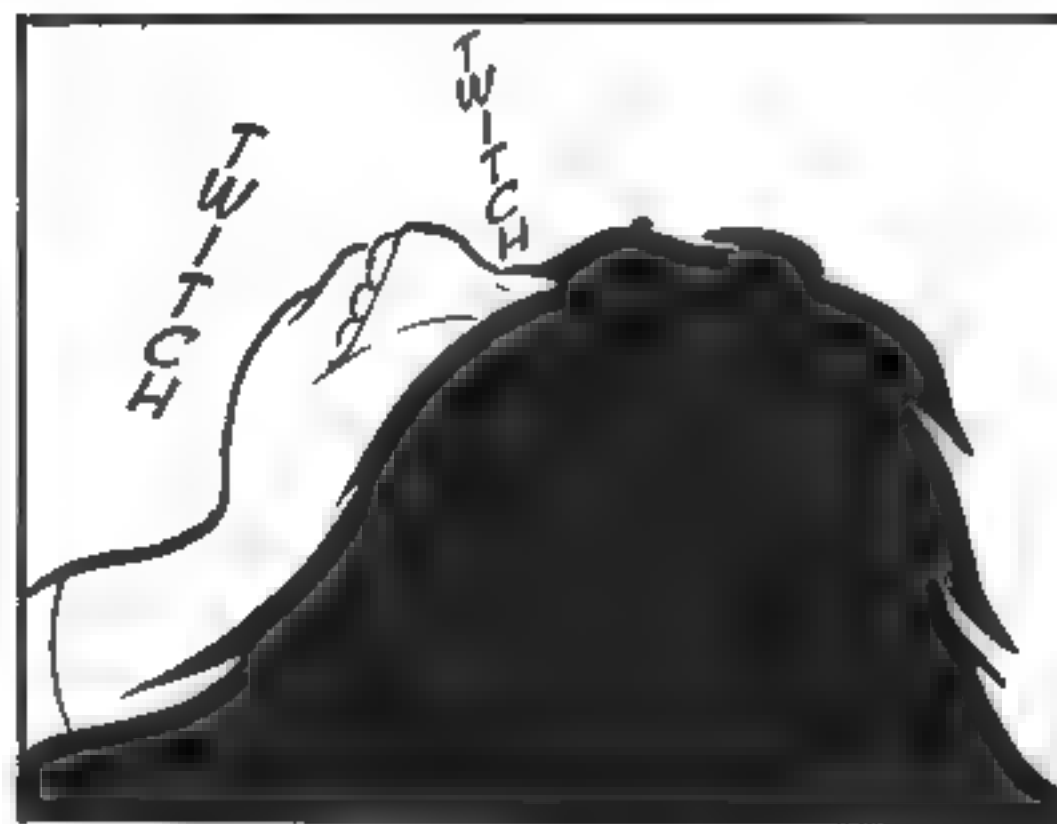
**NO!
DON'T
CHANGE
THE
QUEEN'S
FACE!**













YOU
POOR
THING!



DON'T
LOOK AT ME!

I HAVE
BEEN
REBORN...



I AM NO
LONGER
QUEEN
SIGMA.

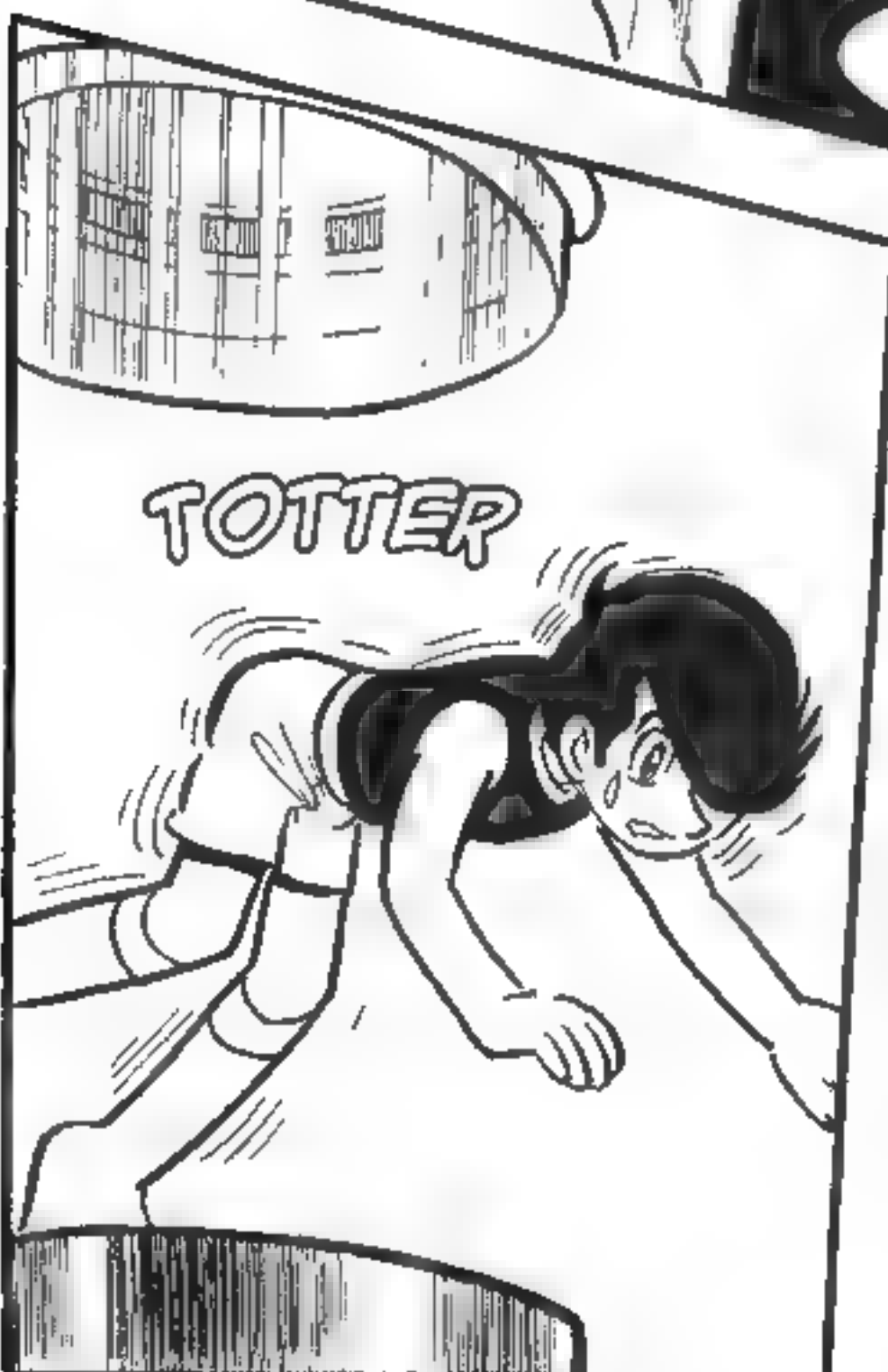
QUEEN
SIGMA...
IS IN THAT
GLASS
VESSEL...

NO! YOU
ARE THE
QUEEN!



I'M NOTHING BUT
AN UGLY HUMAN
WOMAN NOW.
THE QUEEN
YOU KNEW IS
DEAD!

THAT'S NOT
TRUE!
SHE'S ALIVE, IN
FRONT OF ME!

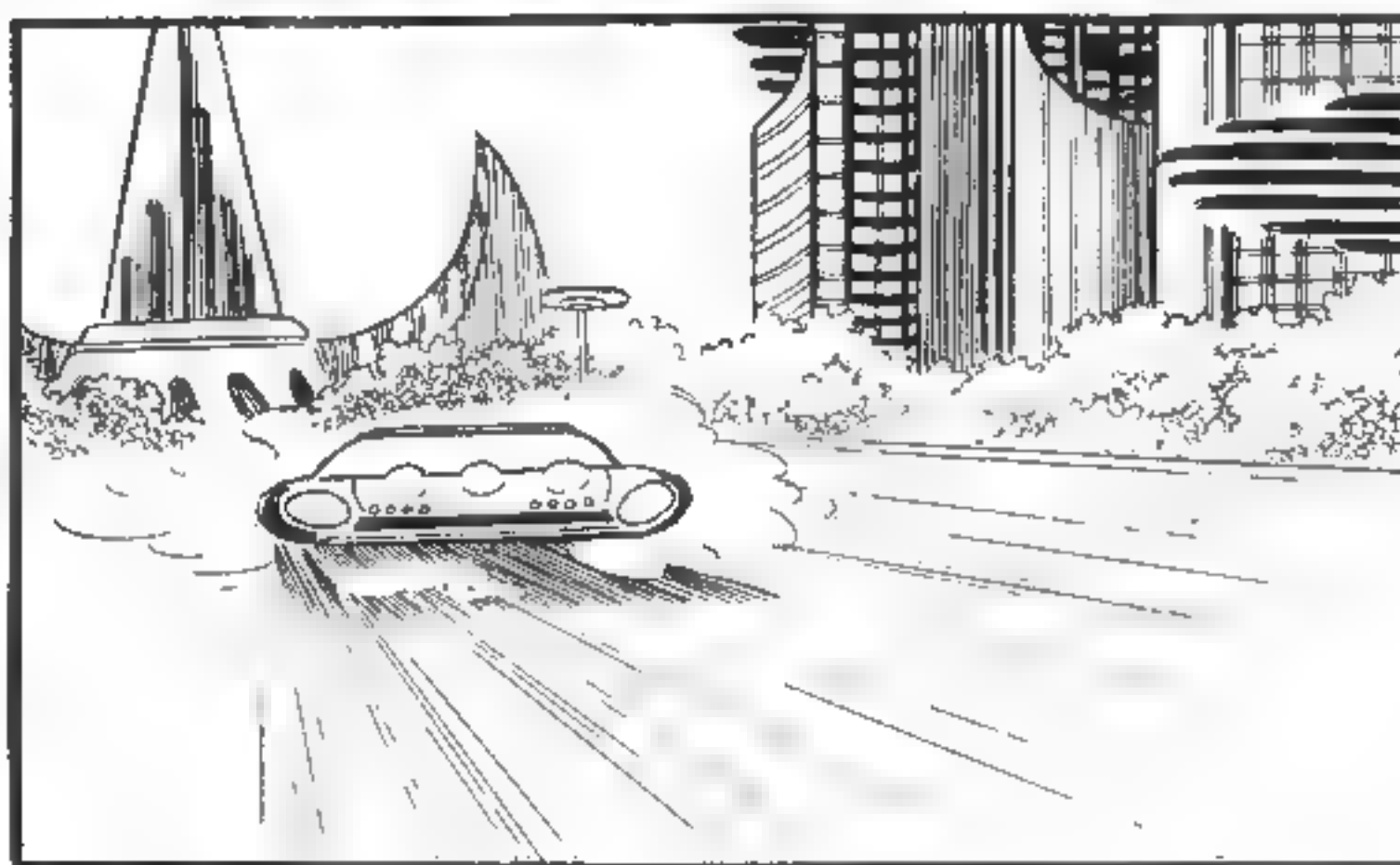
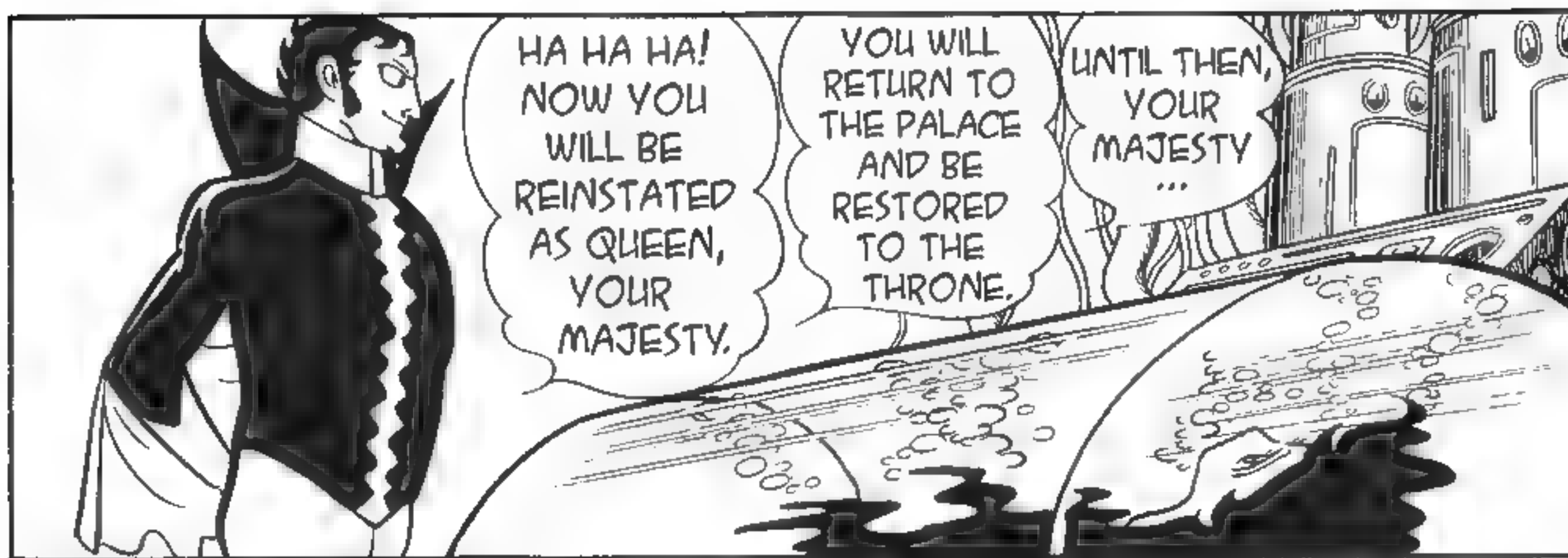


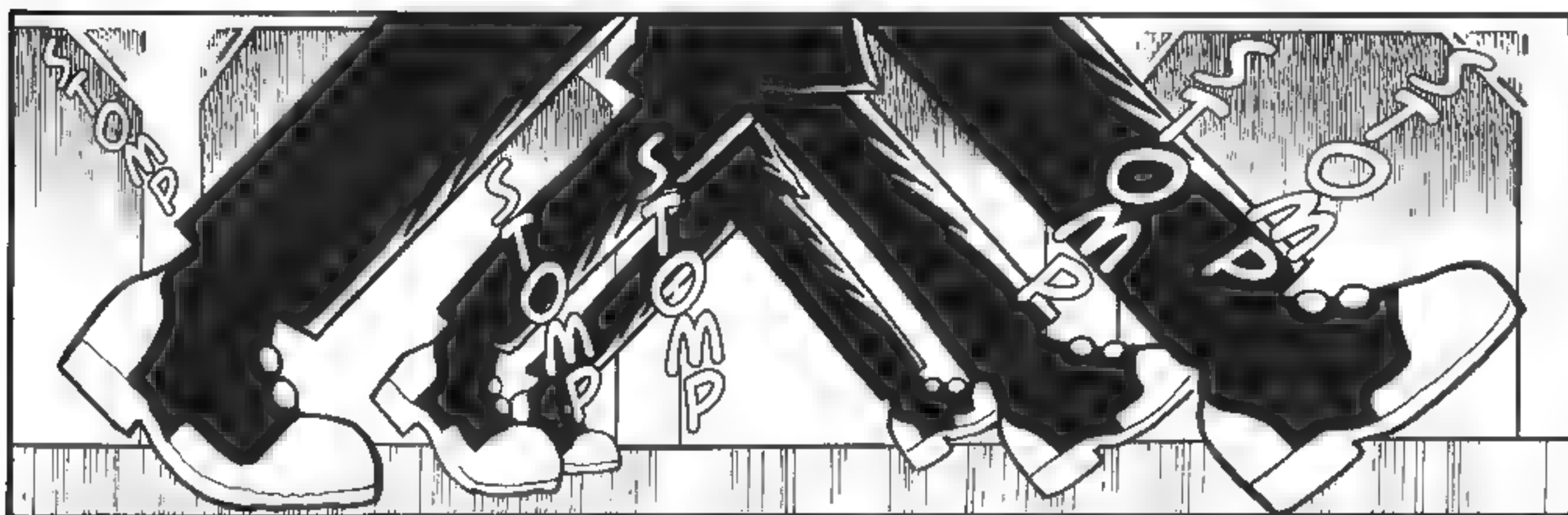
TOTTER

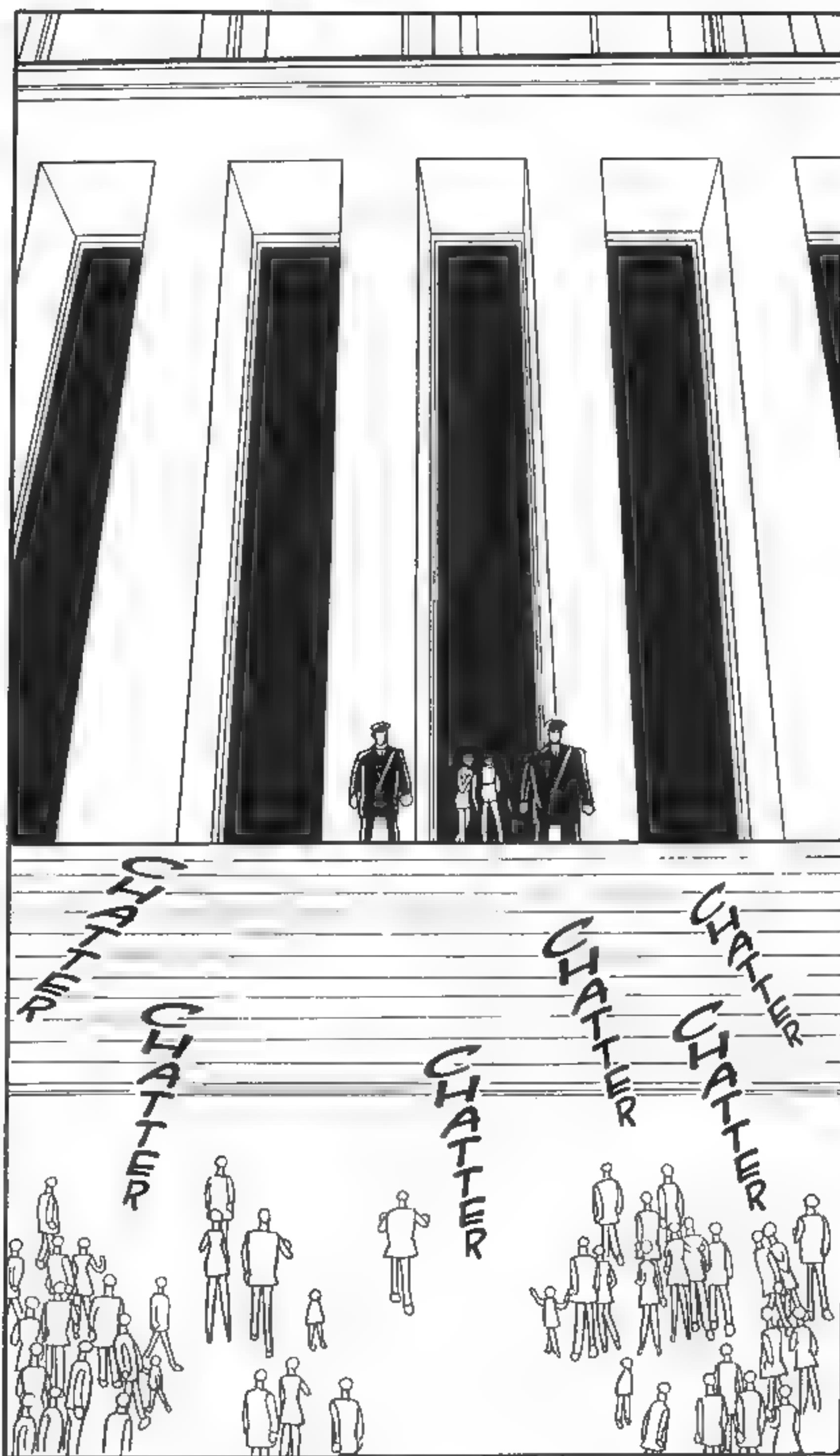
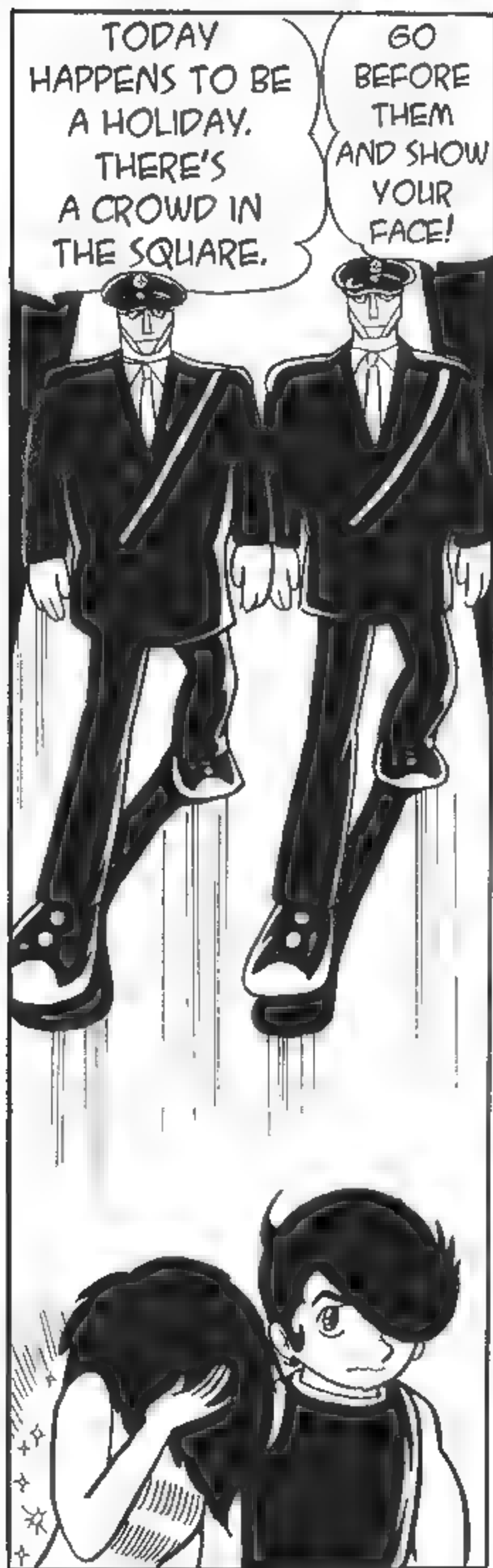


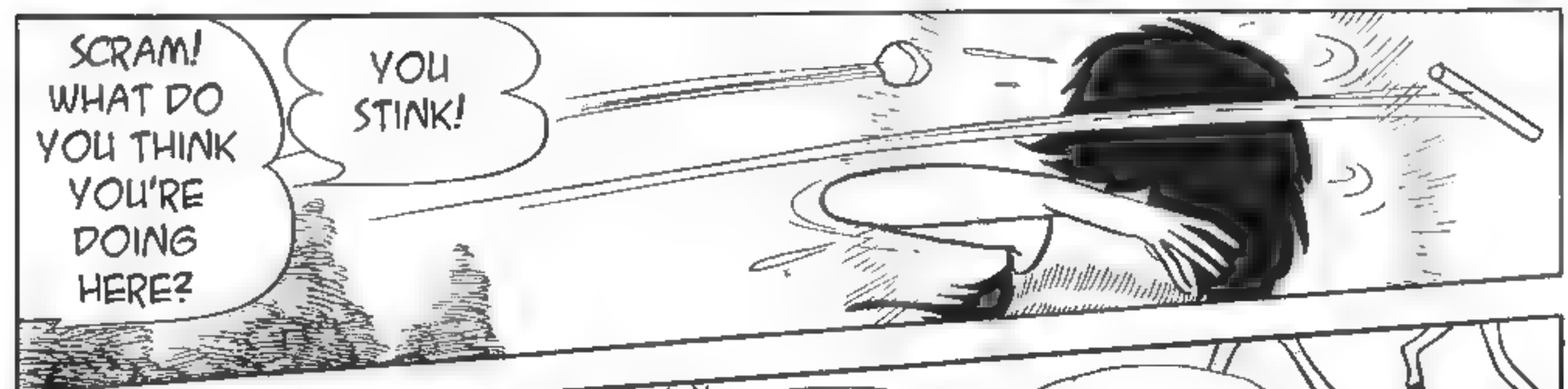
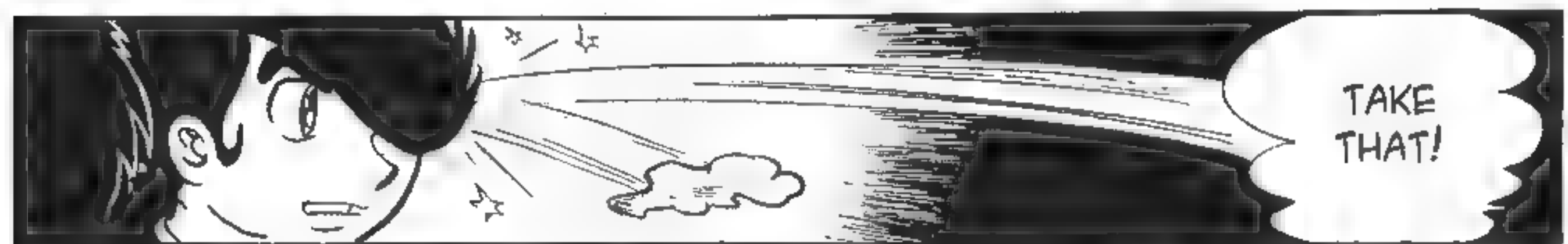
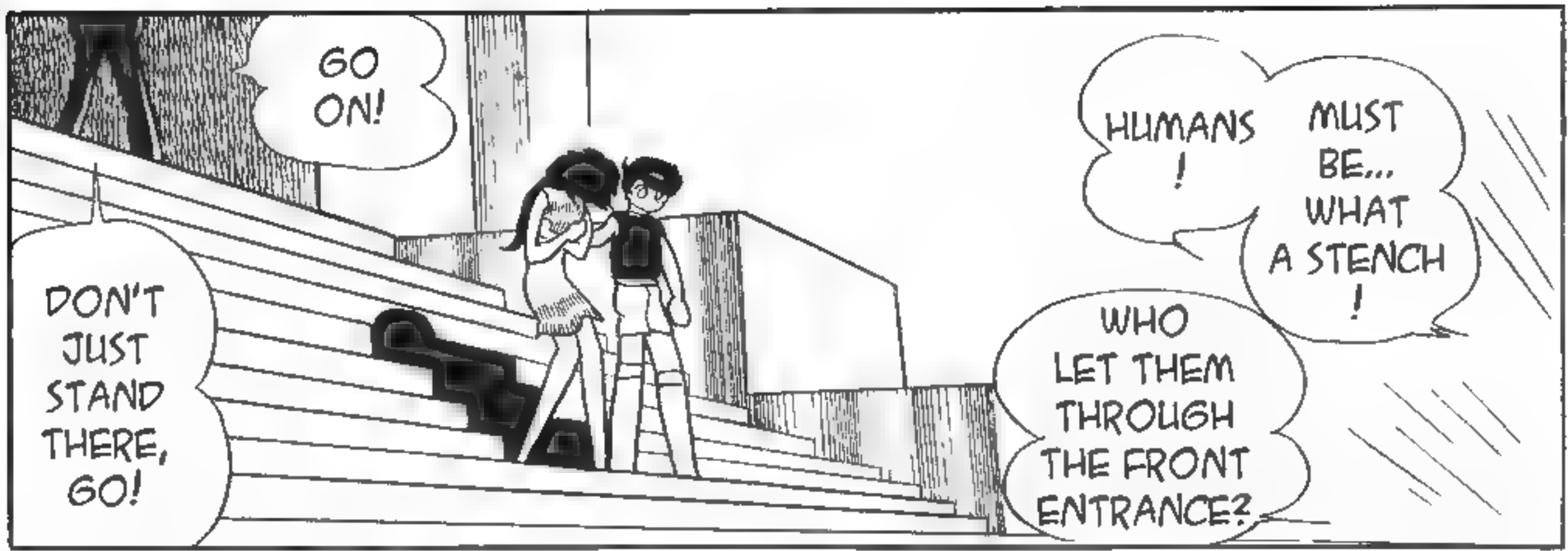
NO MATTER
HOW YOU
LOOK...

I WILL
NEVER
LET YOU
GO!

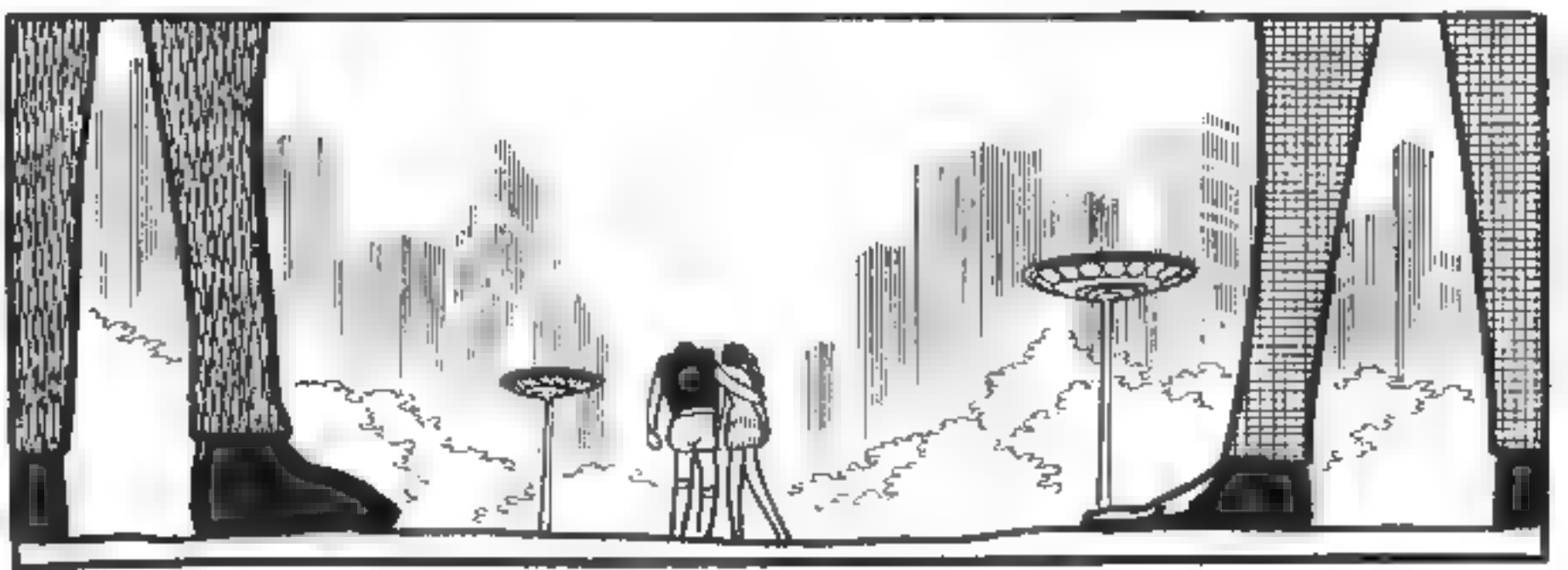
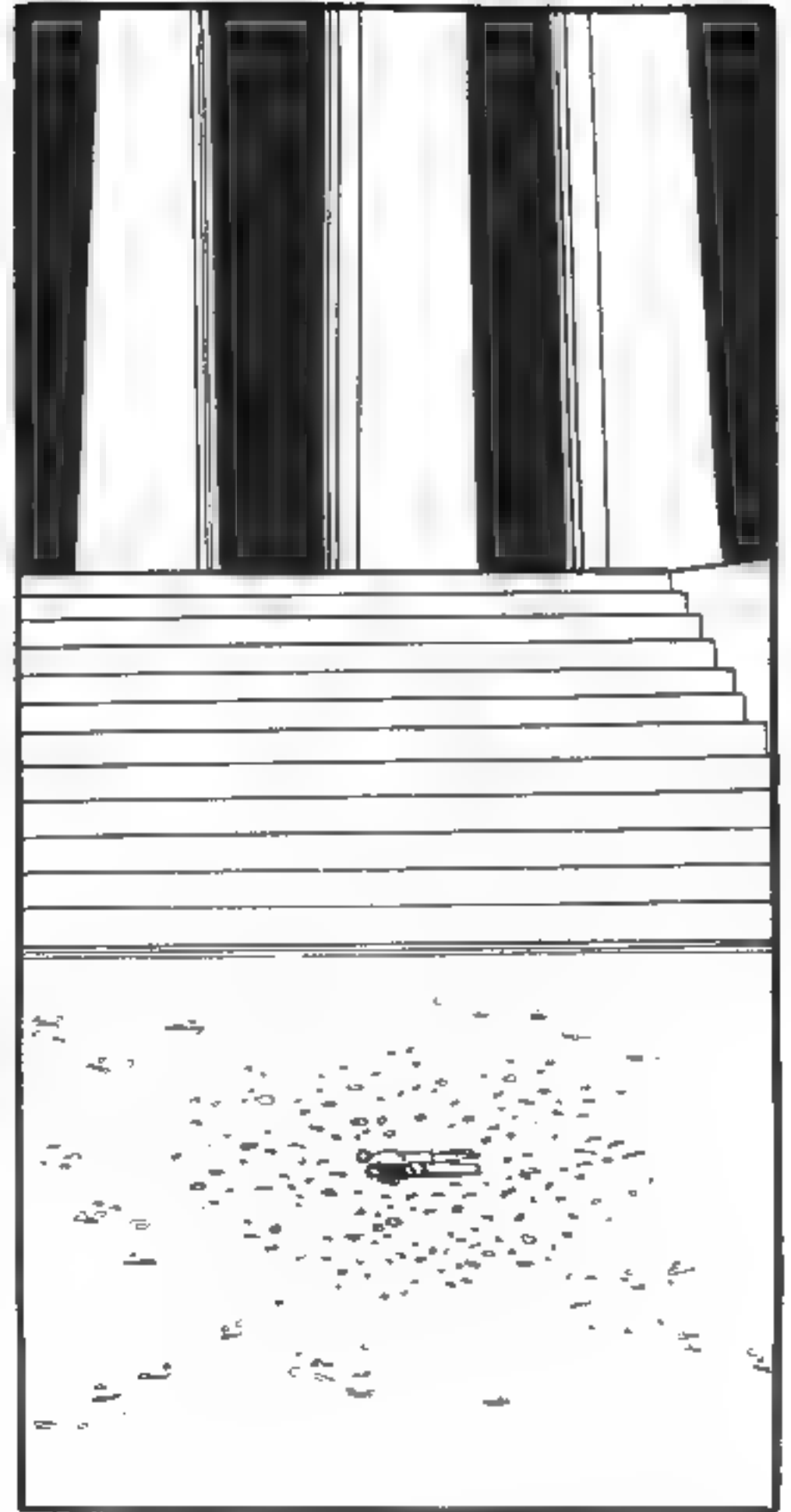




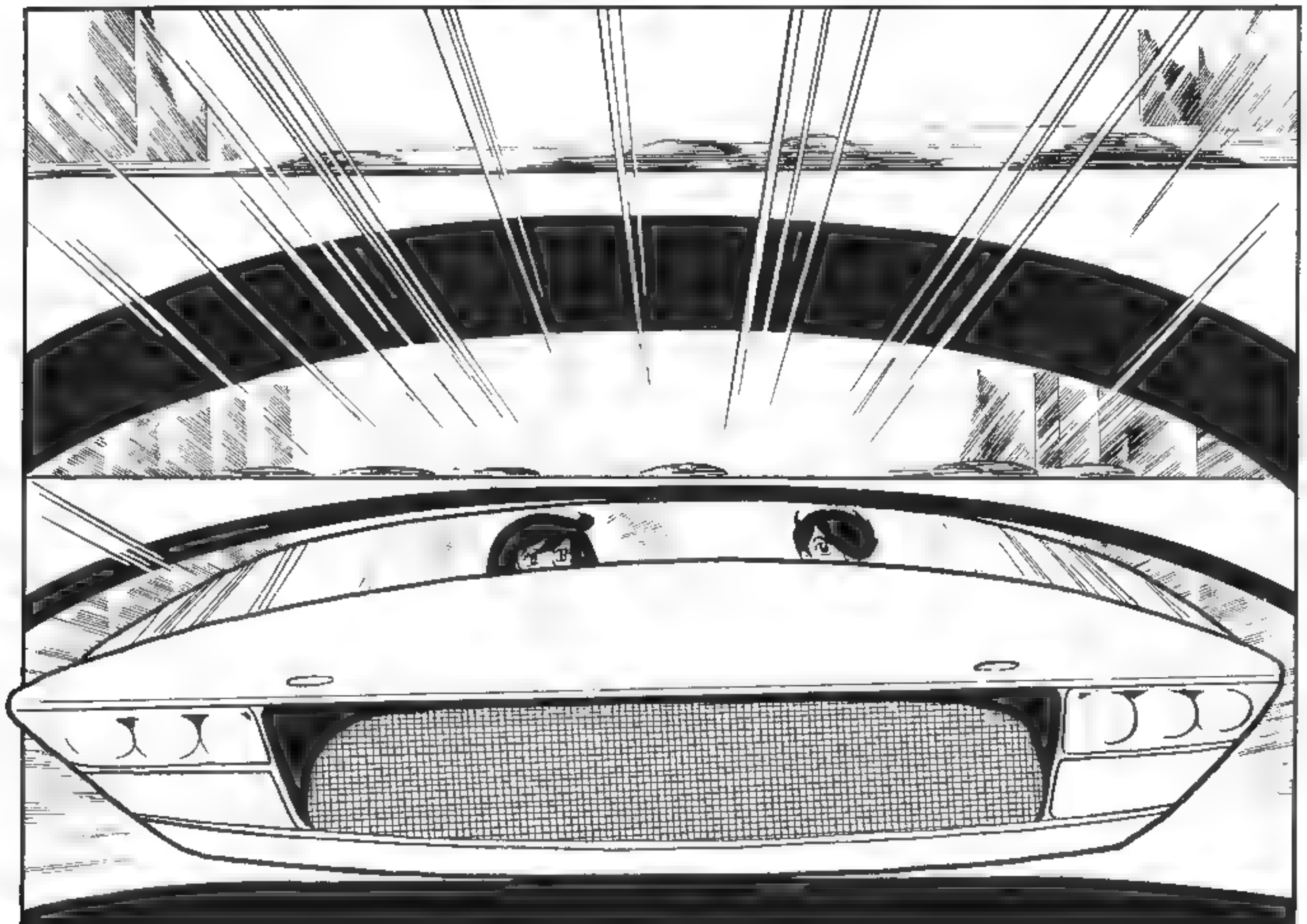


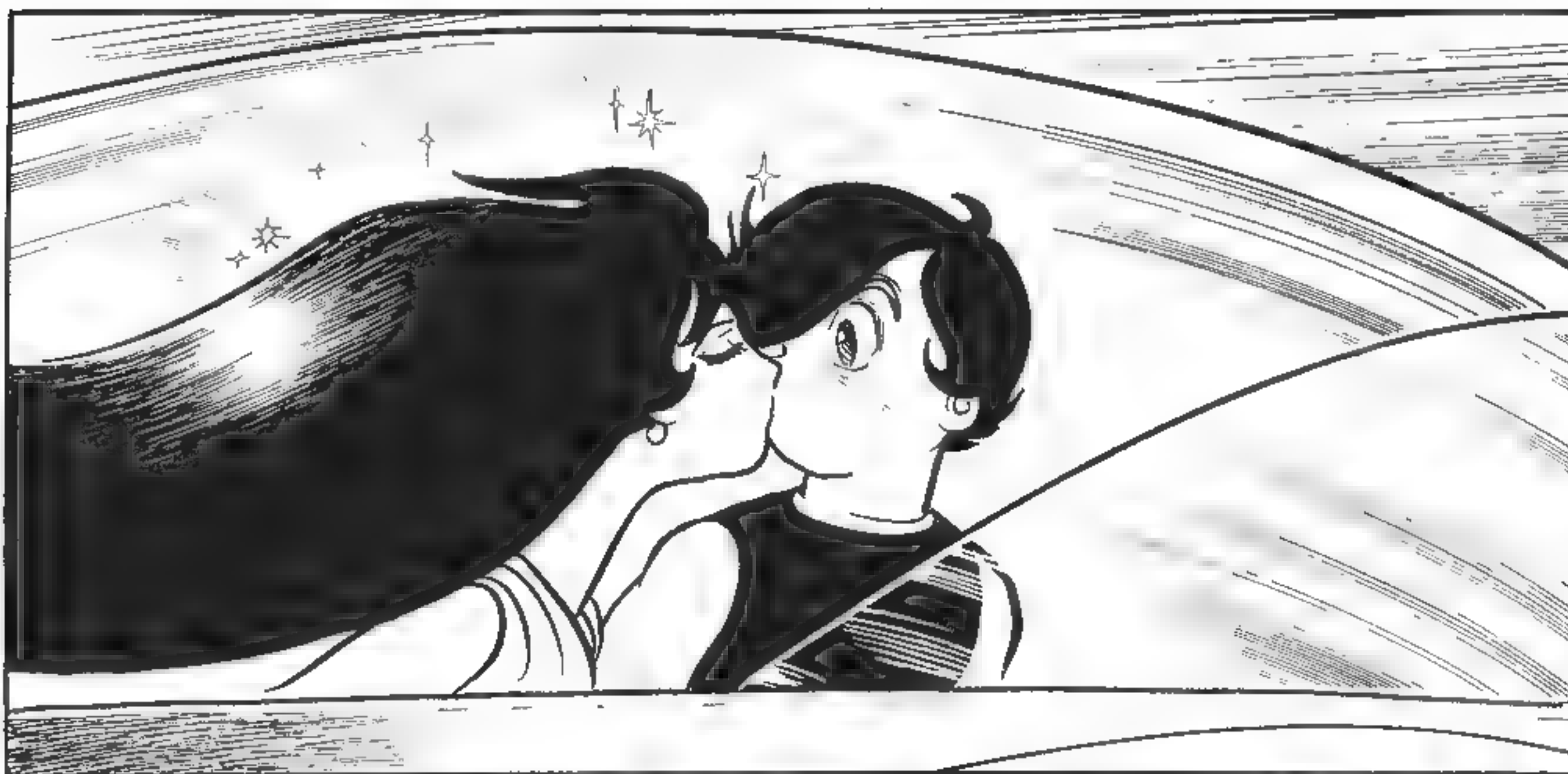


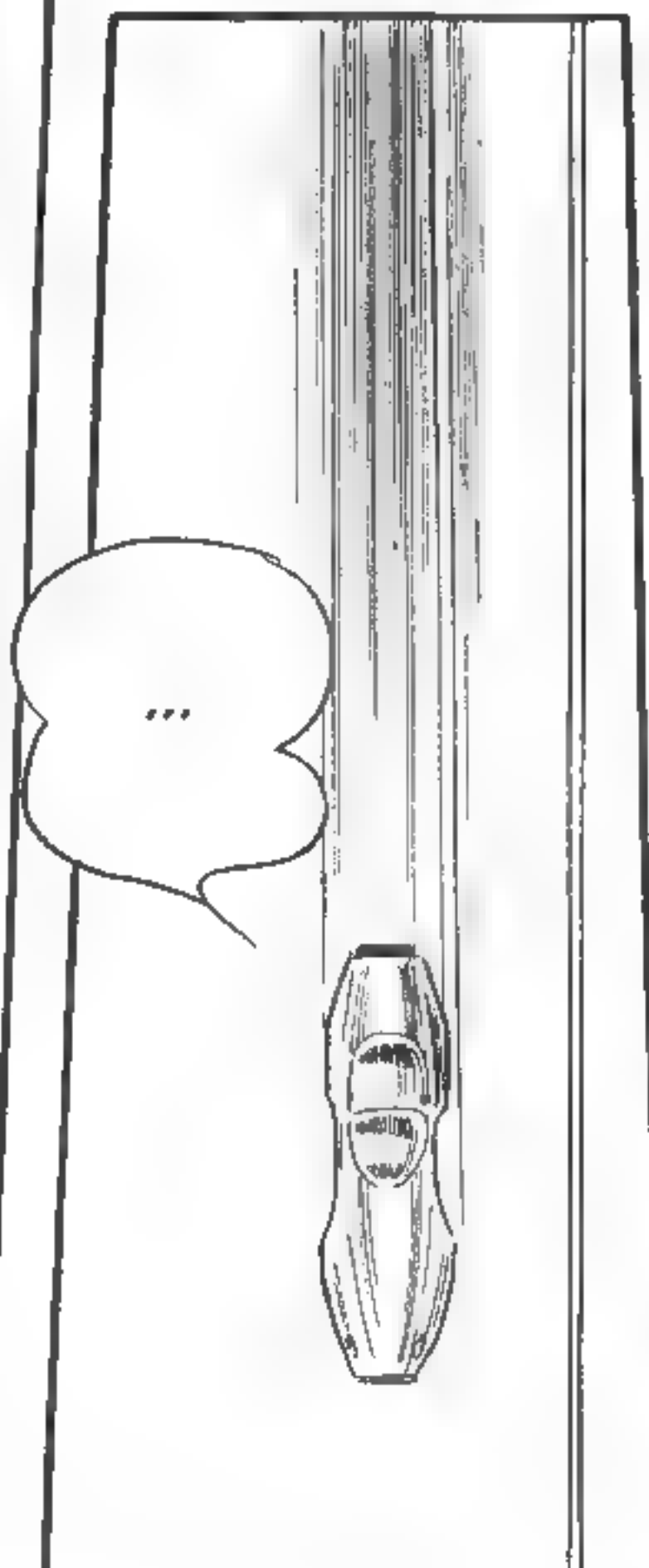
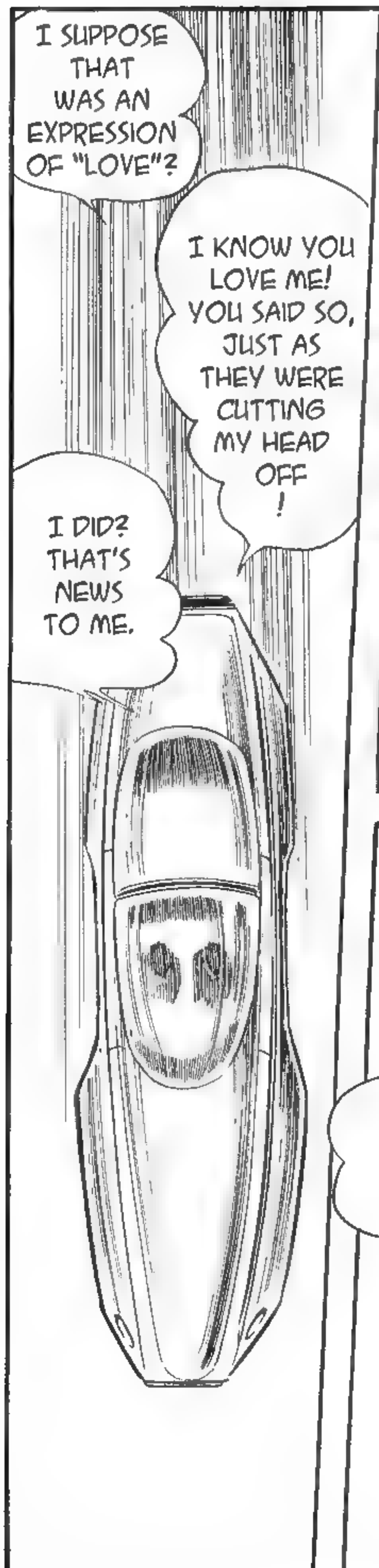


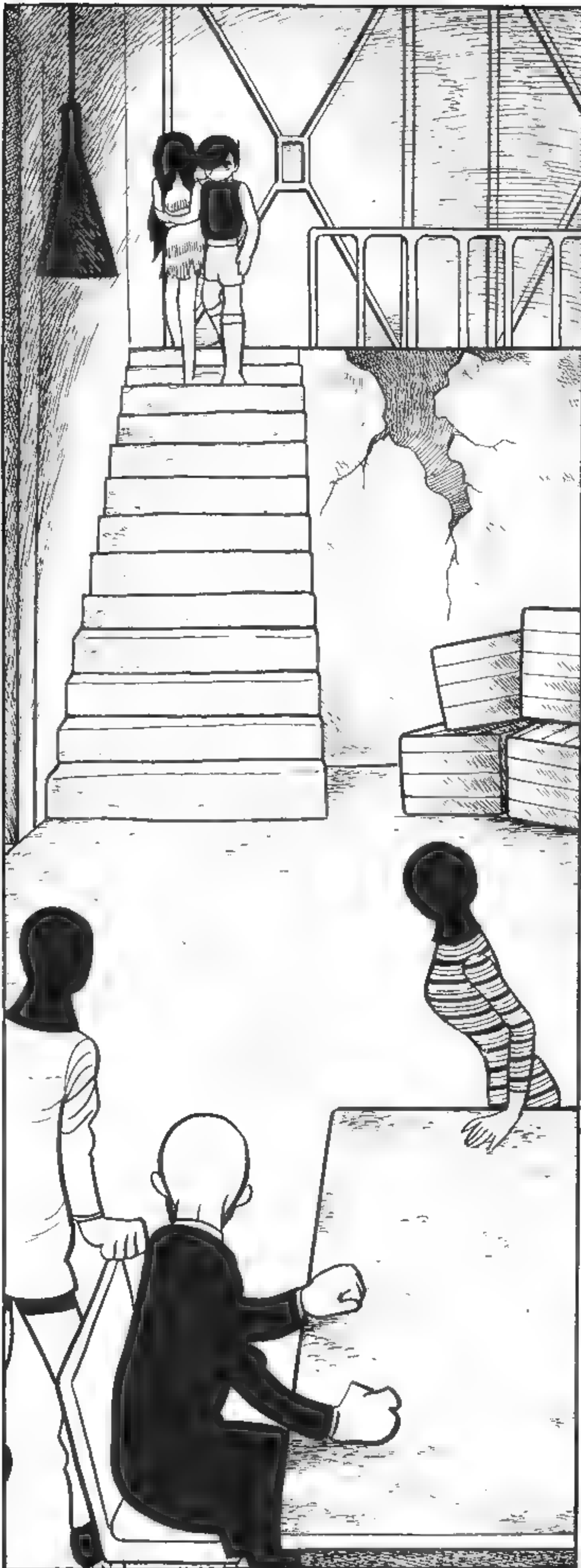












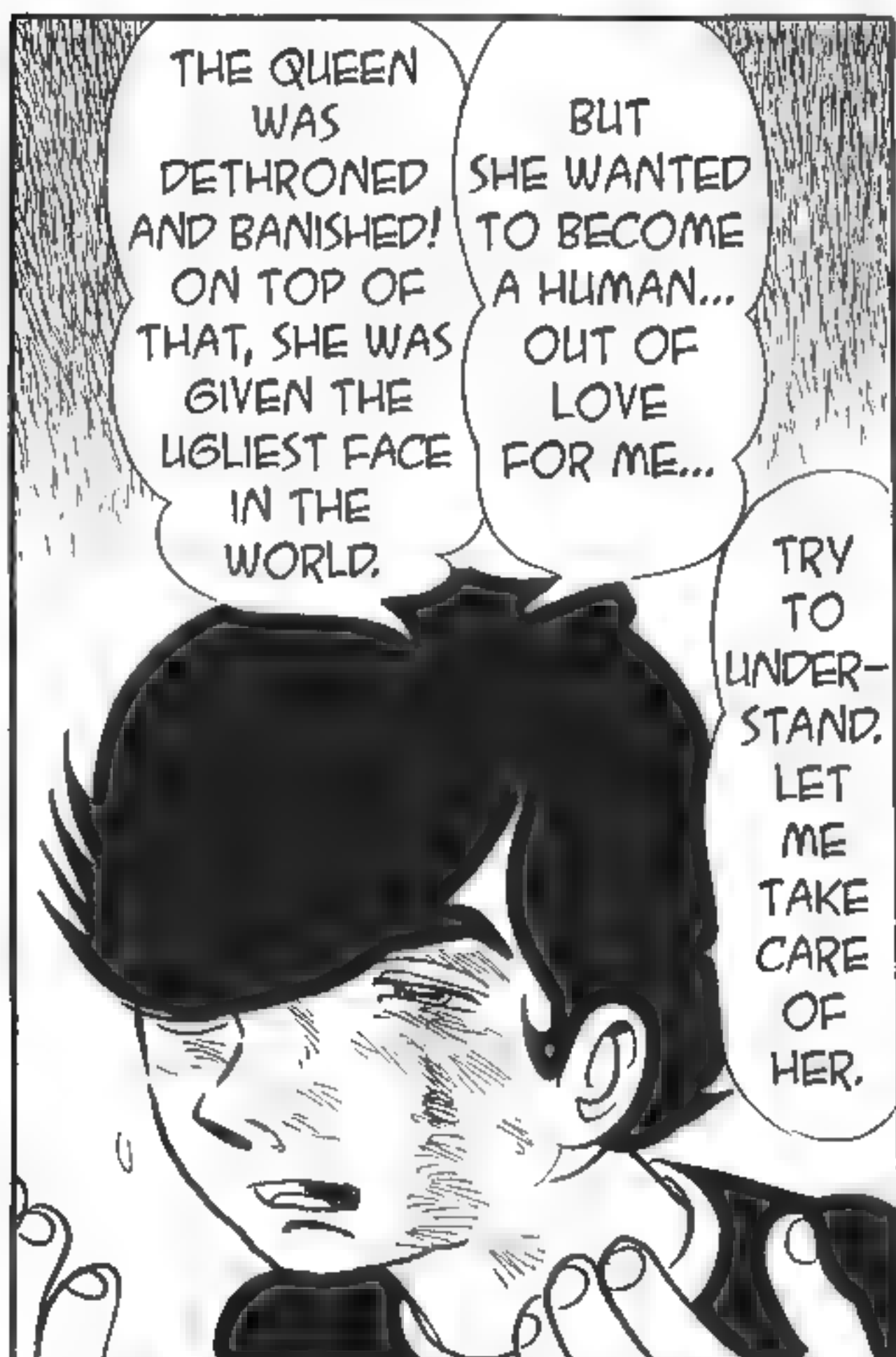




QUIT
JOKING!

WITH
A FACE
LIKE
THAT?

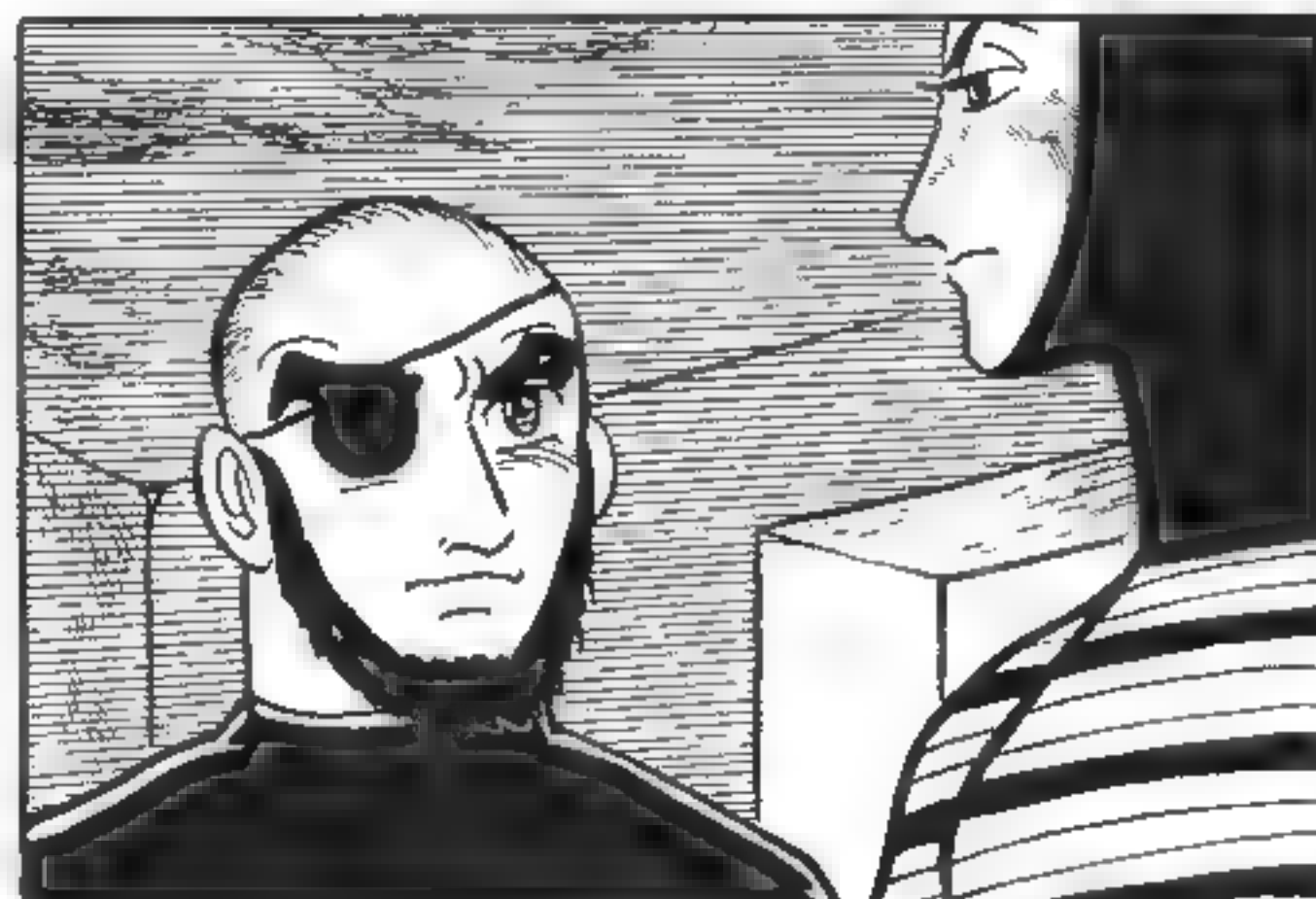
I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT
HAPPENED...



THE QUEEN
WAS
DETHRONED
AND BANISHED!
ON TOP OF
THAT, SHE WAS
GIVEN THE
UGLIEST FACE
IN THE
WORLD.

BUT
SHE WANTED
TO BECOME
A HUMAN...
OUT OF
LOVE
FOR ME...

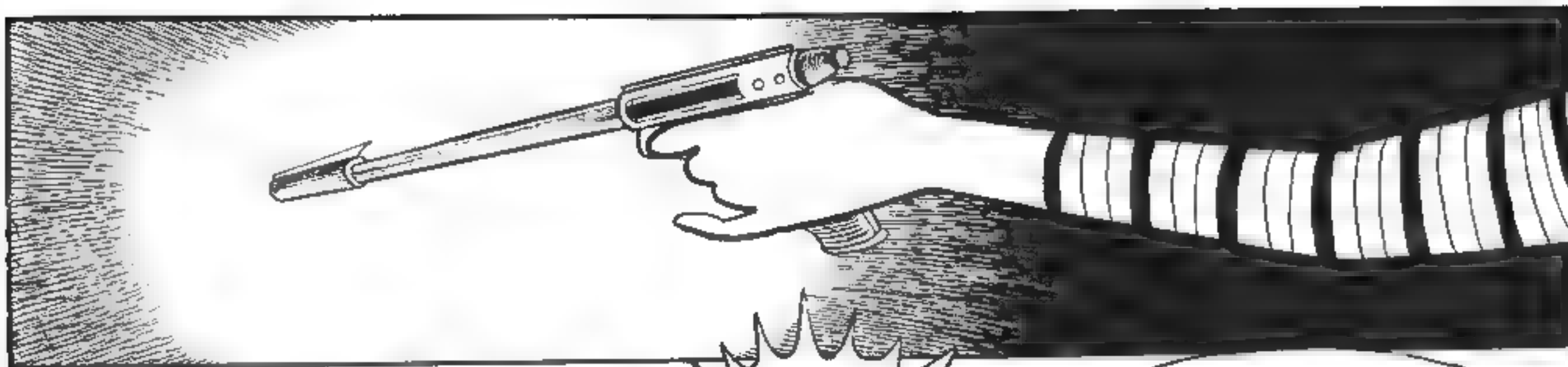
TRY
TO
UNDER-
STAND.
LET
ME
TAKE
CARE
OF HER.



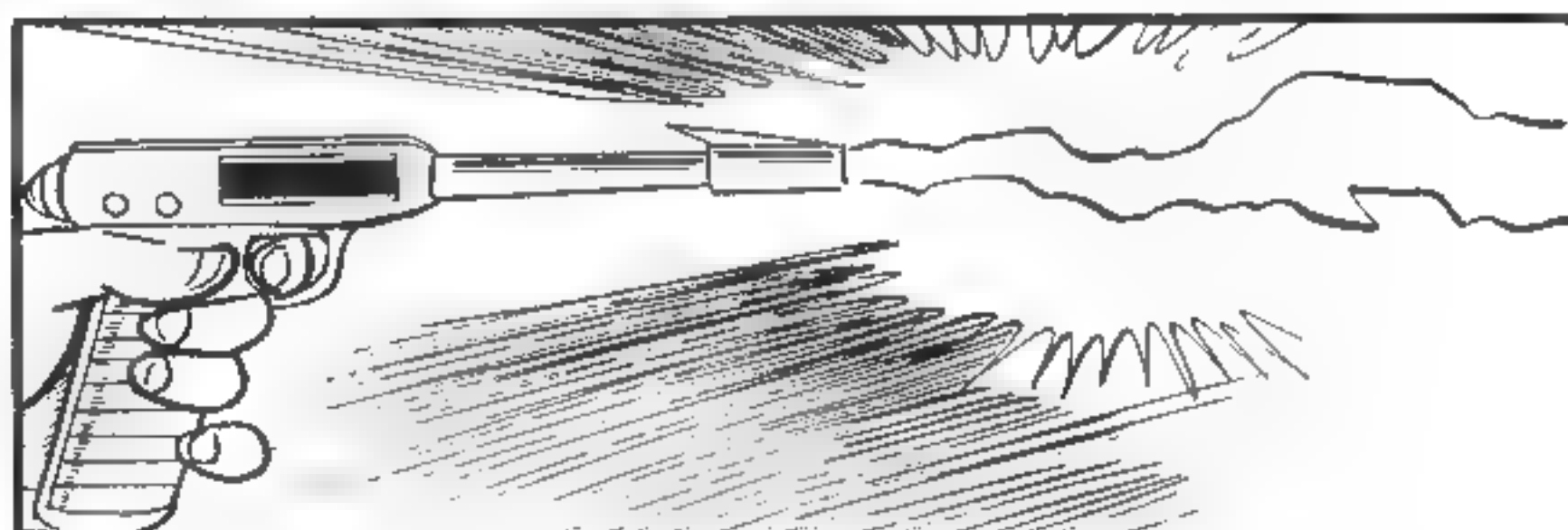
SHOGO,
SHE HAS
THE BLOOD
OF THOUSANDS
OF HUMANS
ON HER
HANDS!

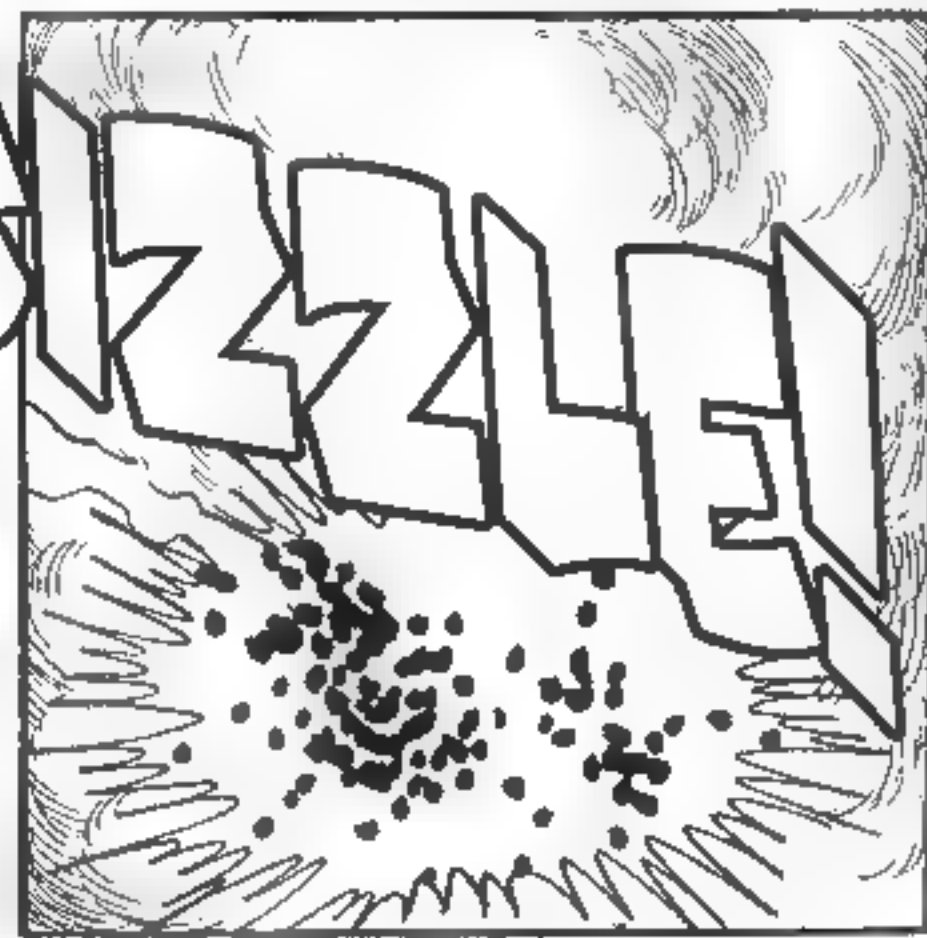
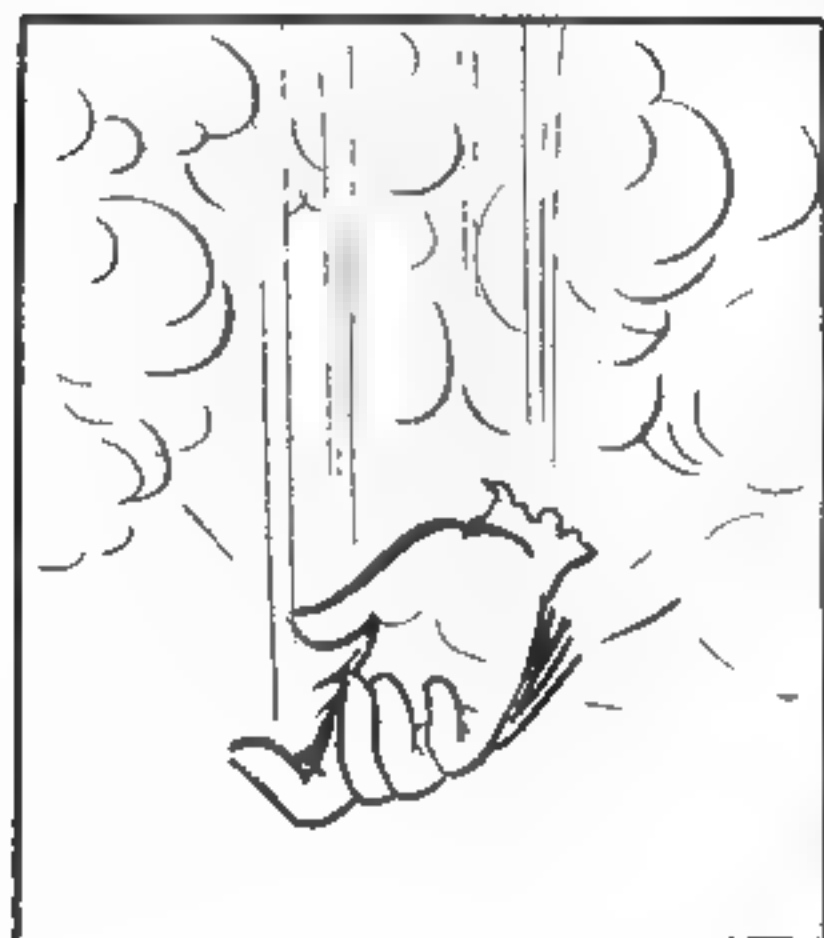
SHE WAS
A CRUEL
AND
MERCILESS
RULER!

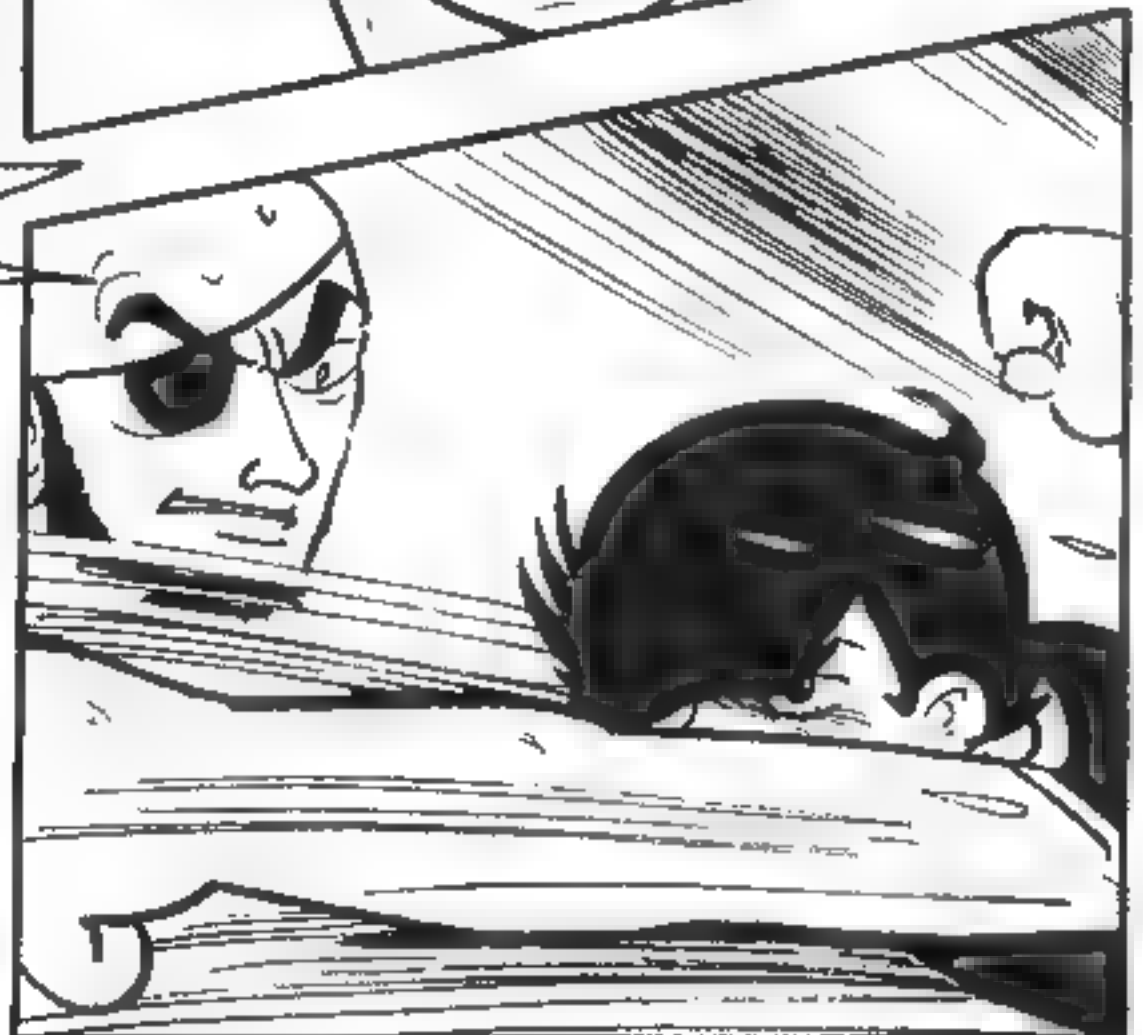
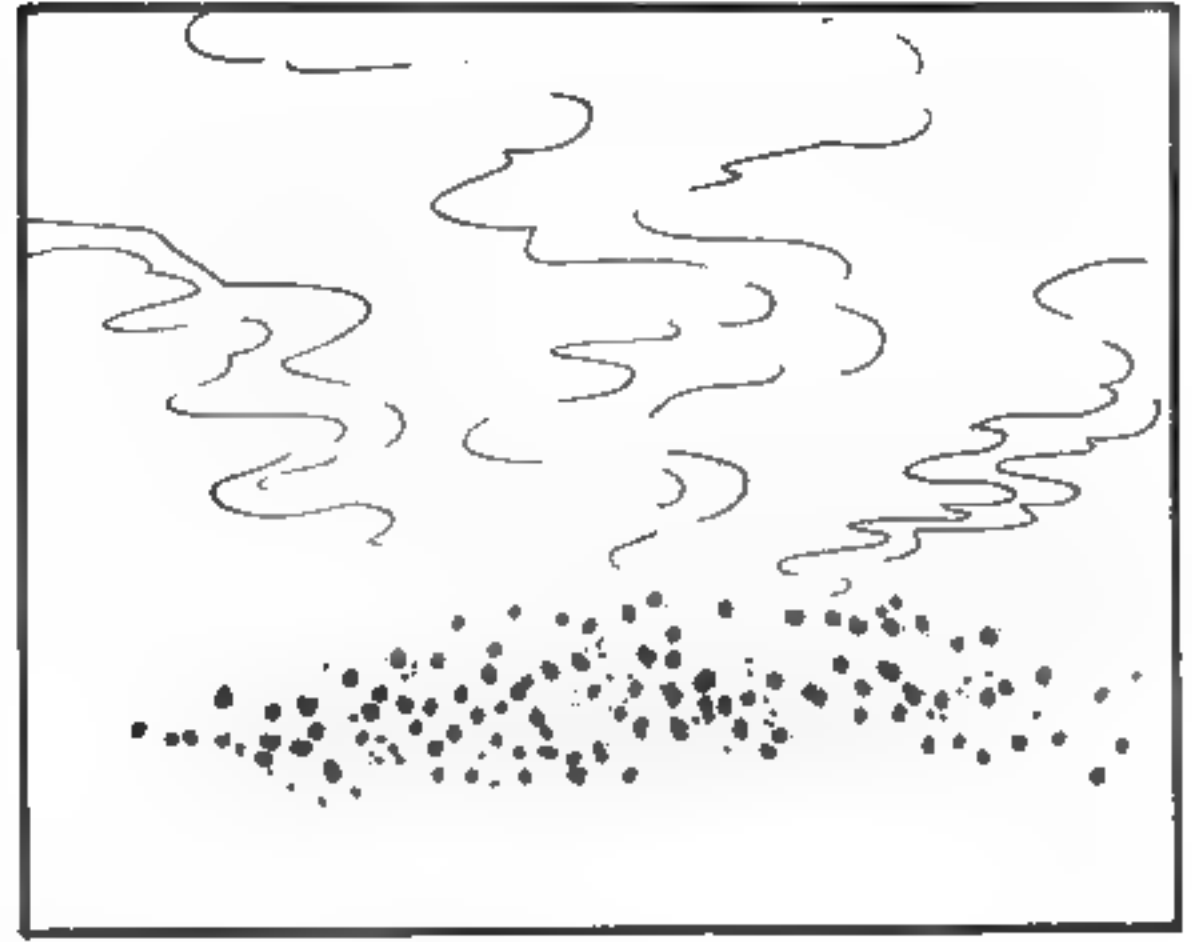
WE
CAN'T
ALLOW
IT.













BLINDED BY LOVE!
HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?

DUNK YOUR HEAD IN COLD WATER UNTIL YOU REALIZE HOW POINTLESS IT IS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A SYNTHIAN!



SEND HIM TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE FOR A WHILE TO CALM DOWN.

WE'LL LET HIM OFF THIS TIME. WE NEED EVERY HUMAN WE'VE GOT.

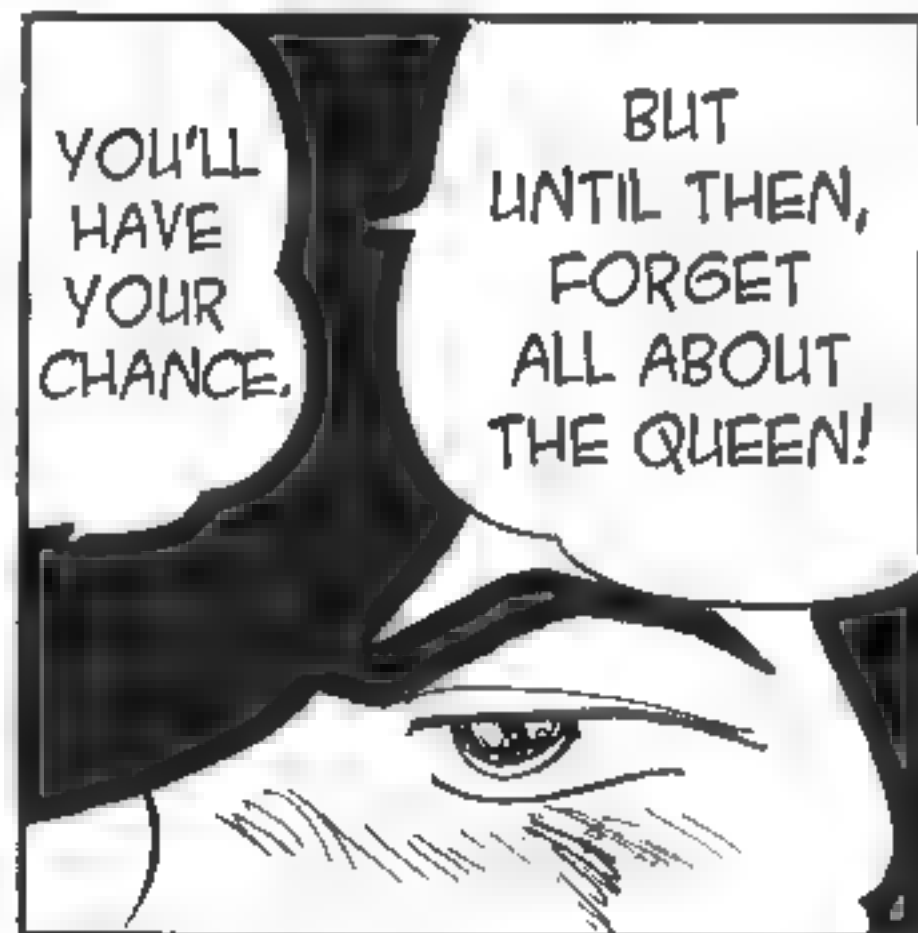


KILL ME!



WHAT'S THE RUSH?

IF YOU WANT TO DIE, DIE FIGHTING THE SYNTHIANS!

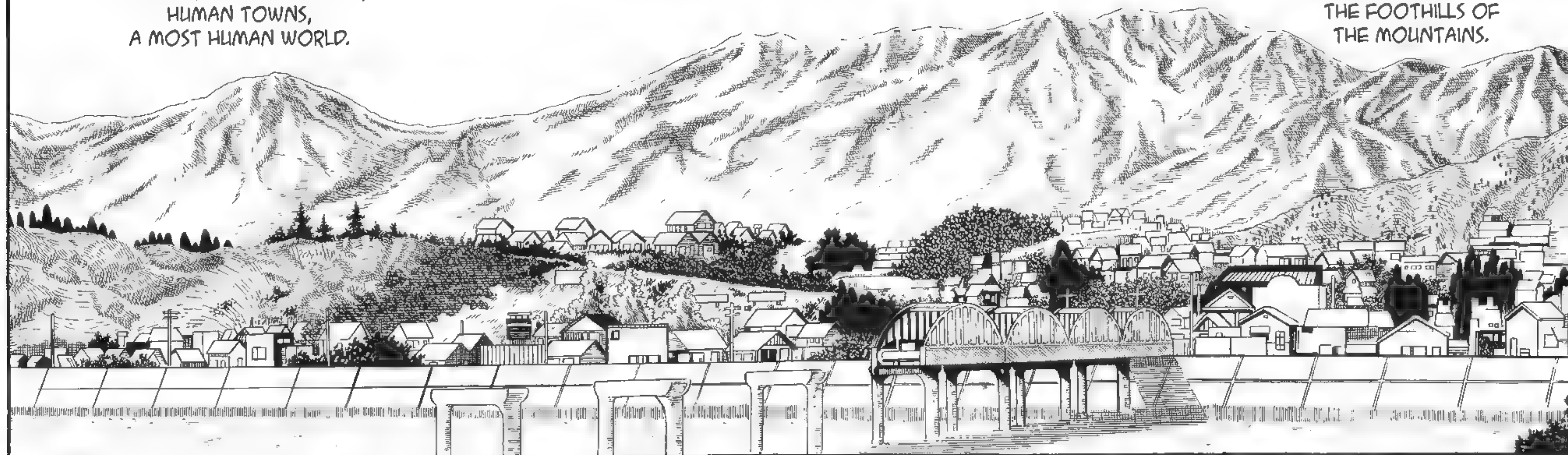


YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE.

BUT UNTIL THEN, FORGET ALL ABOUT THE QUEEN!

IMPOVERISHED,
MESSY AND CRAMPED,
DIM...
THESE ARE HUMAN HOUSES,
HUMAN TOWNS,
A MOST HUMAN WORLD.

DRIVEN FROM THE CITIES
BY THE SYNTHIANS,
HUMAN BEINGS BUILT
SHANTYTOWNS IN
THE FOOTHILLS OF
THE MOUNTAINS.



HEHEHEH...
WELL? ARE
YOU FEELING
HUMAN AGAIN?



THE
TEA ON
RICE IS
GOOD,
ISN'T IT?

AND HOW
DO YOU
LIKE THEM
RADISH
PICKLES?

MUNCH
MUNCH



I WANNA
SHOW YOU
SOMETHIN'.
COME
ON!



BEAUTIFUL, AIN'T
IT? THIS IS THE
HUMAN WORLD!
HUMANS KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT HARMONY
WITH NATURE,
WITH THE
EARTH.

LOOK AT
THEM
GREEN
HILLS!



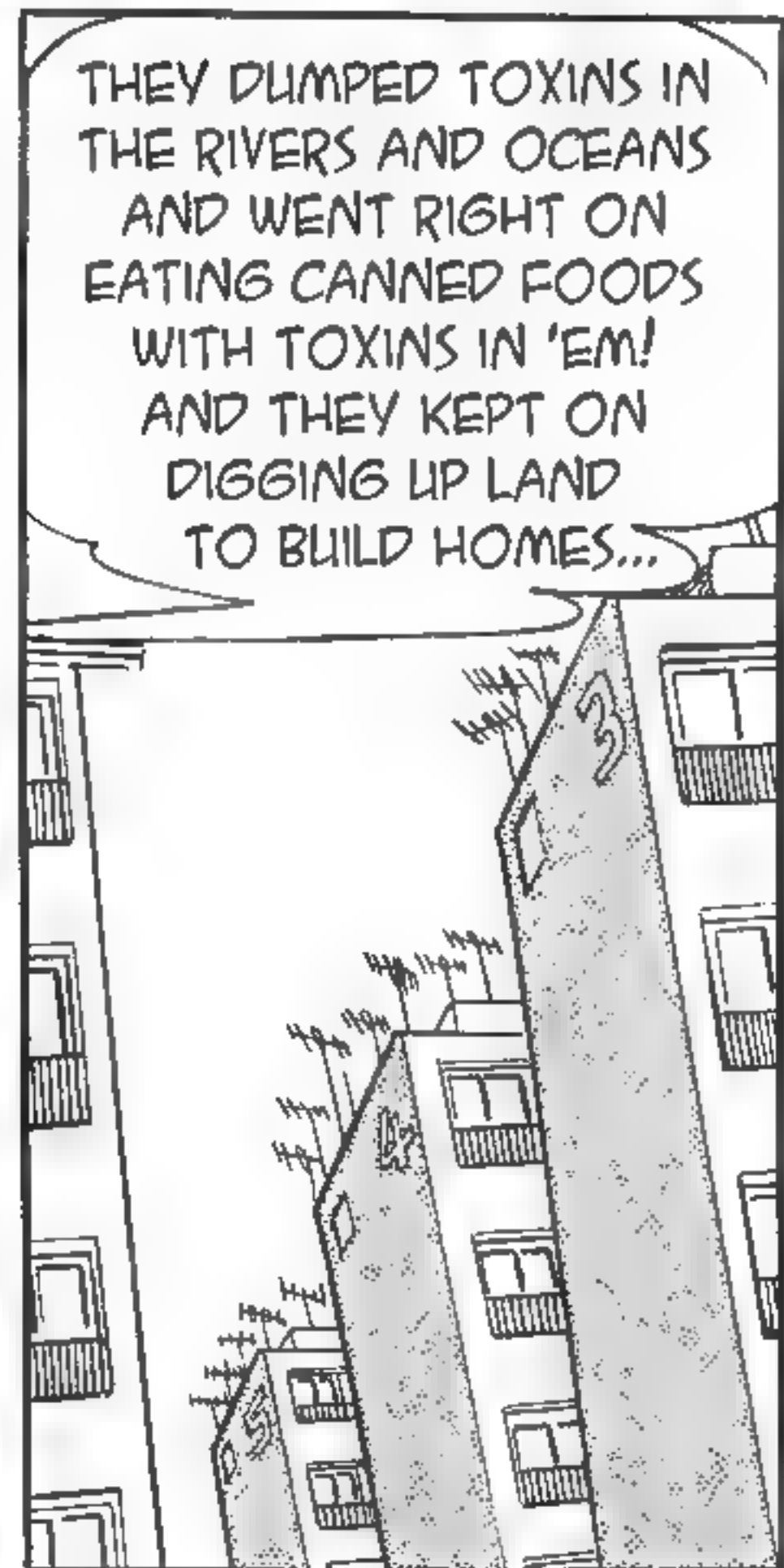
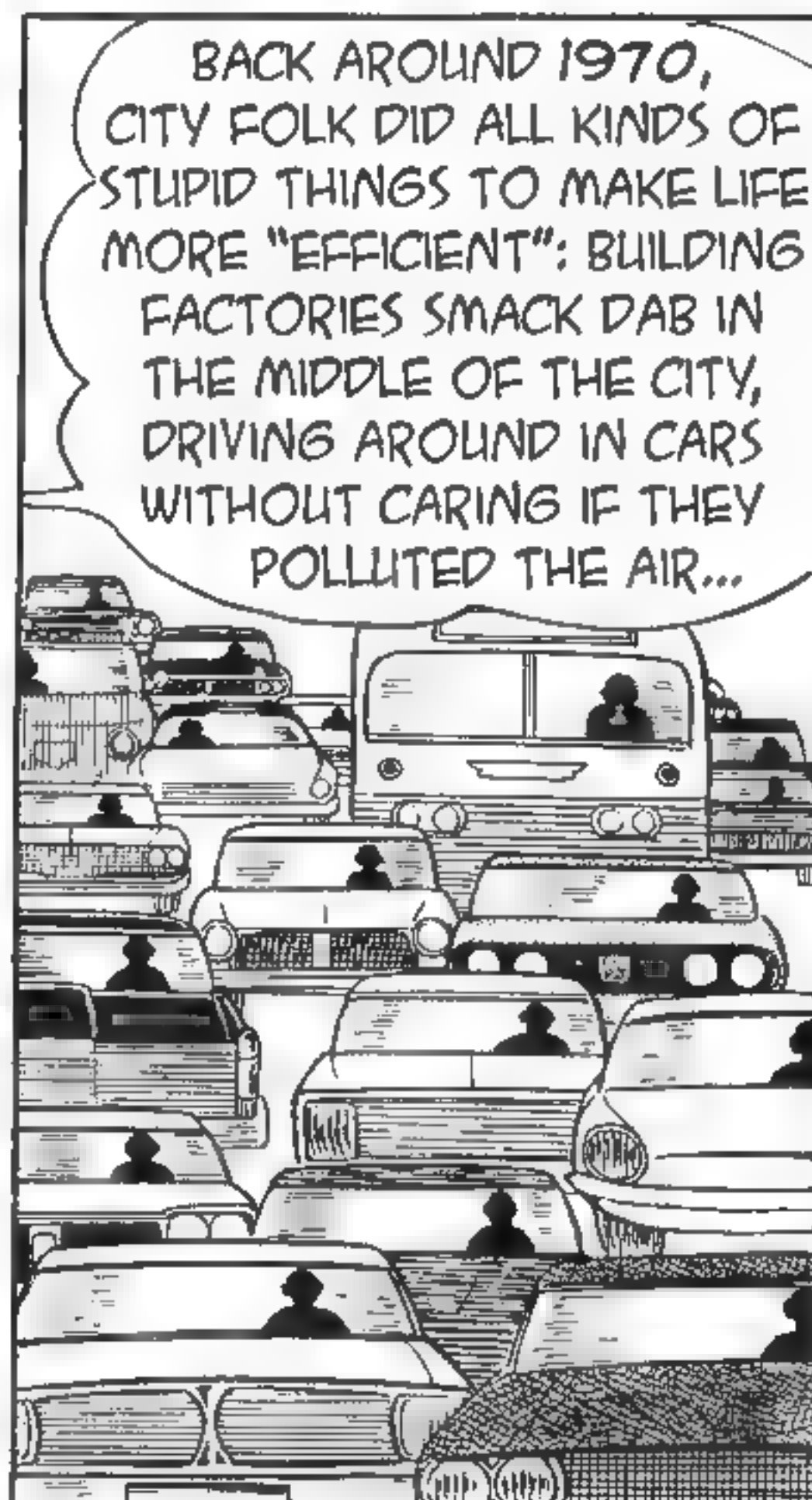
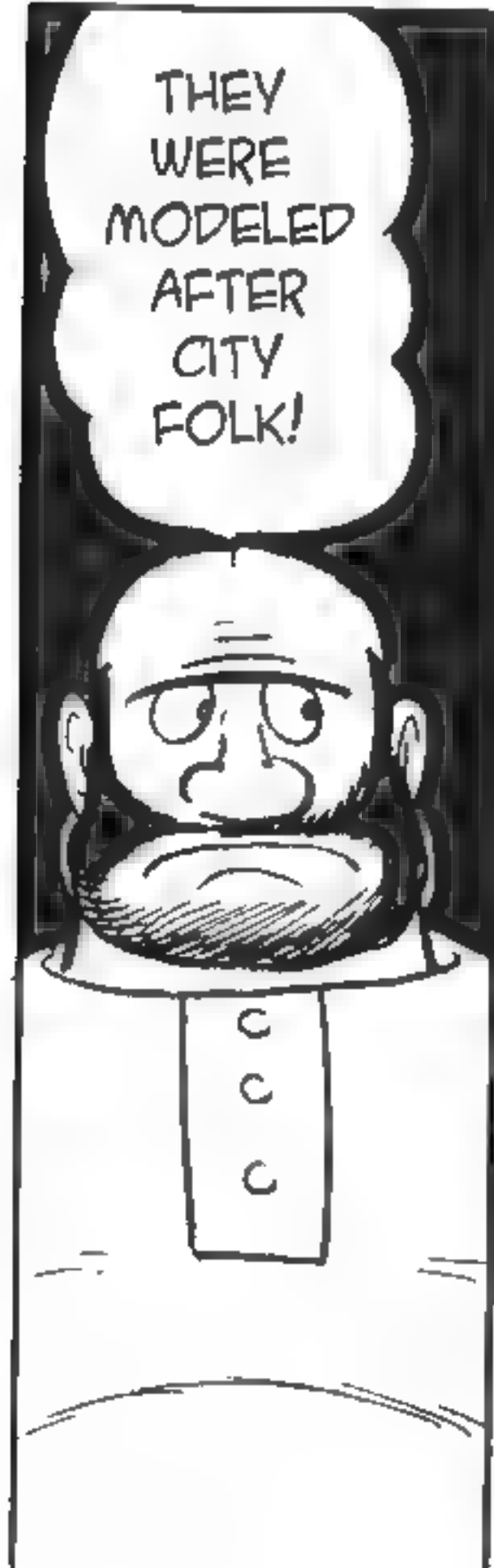
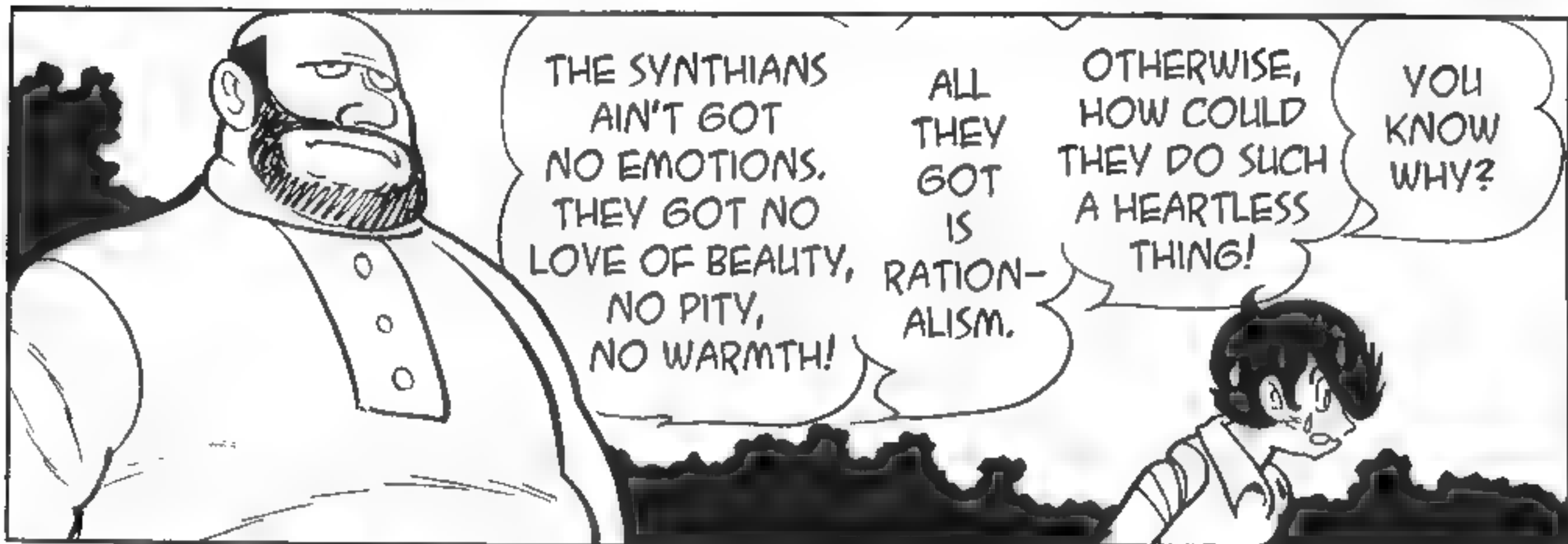
C'MON...
WE'LL
CLIMB
TO THE
TOP.



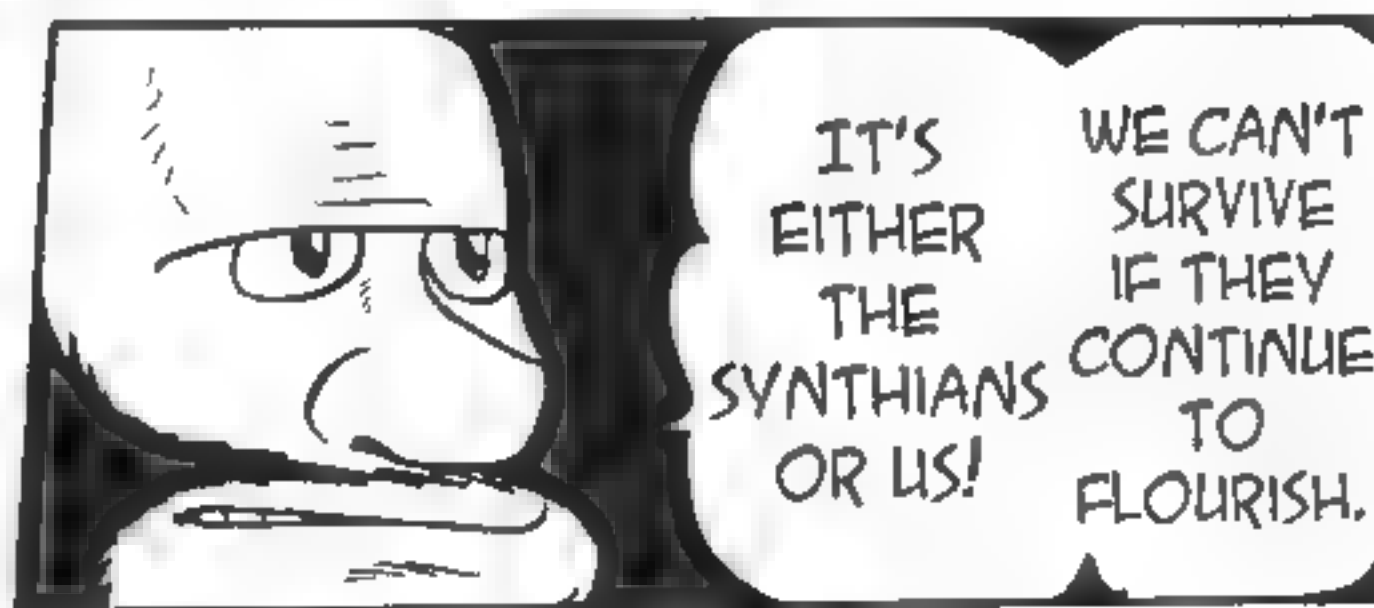
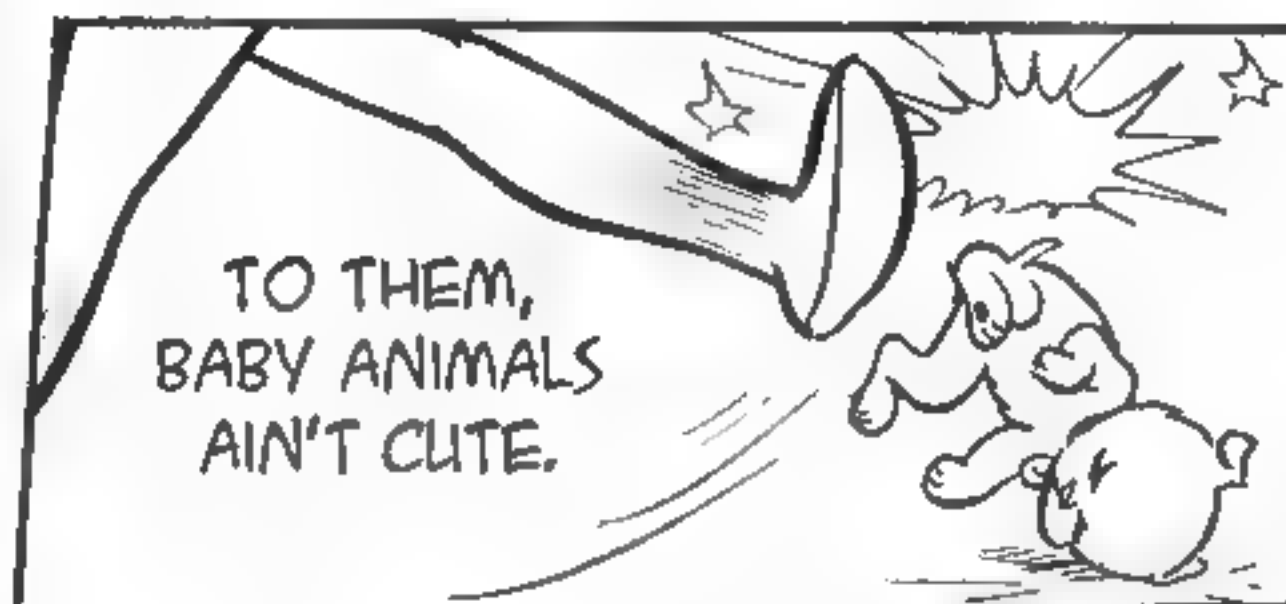
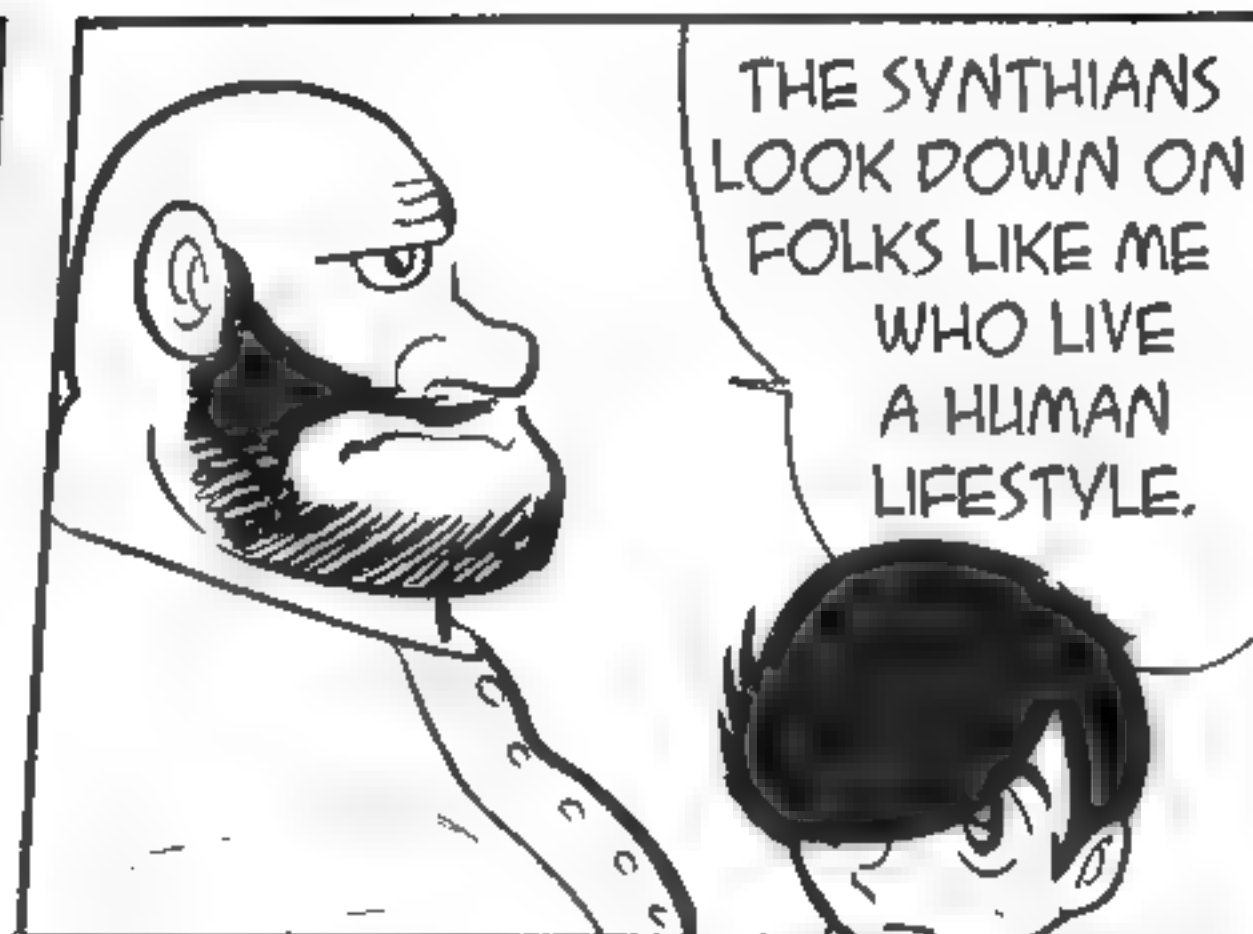
EVERY-
THING
BEYOND
HERE...

IS THE SYNTHIAN WORLD.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
THEY CUT THE MOUNTAIN CLEAR IN HALF
AND WIPED OUT EVERY LAST TREE,
BLADE OF GRASS, AND BUG!
NO CHARM, NO WARMTH!
LOOK AT THEIR HOMES!

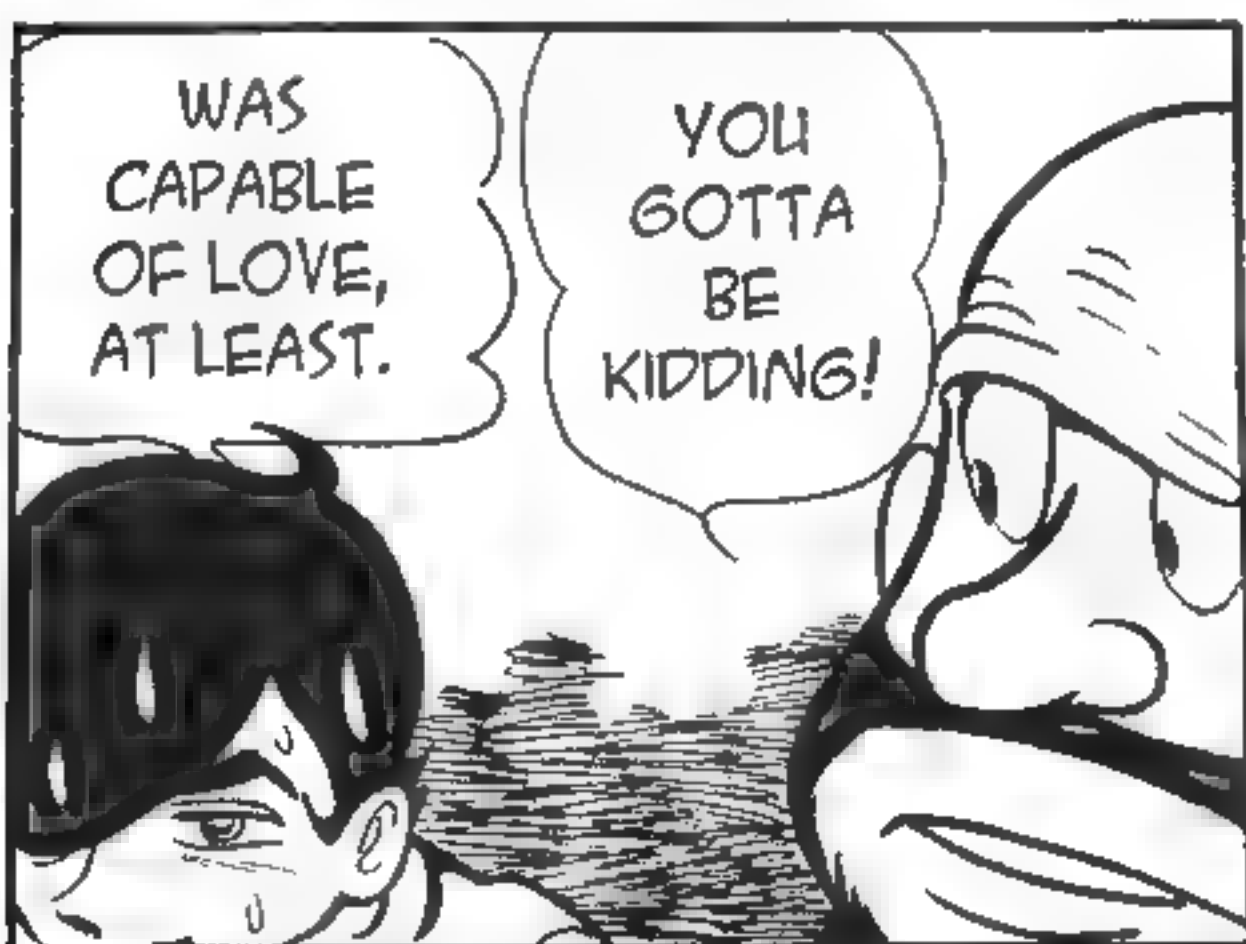
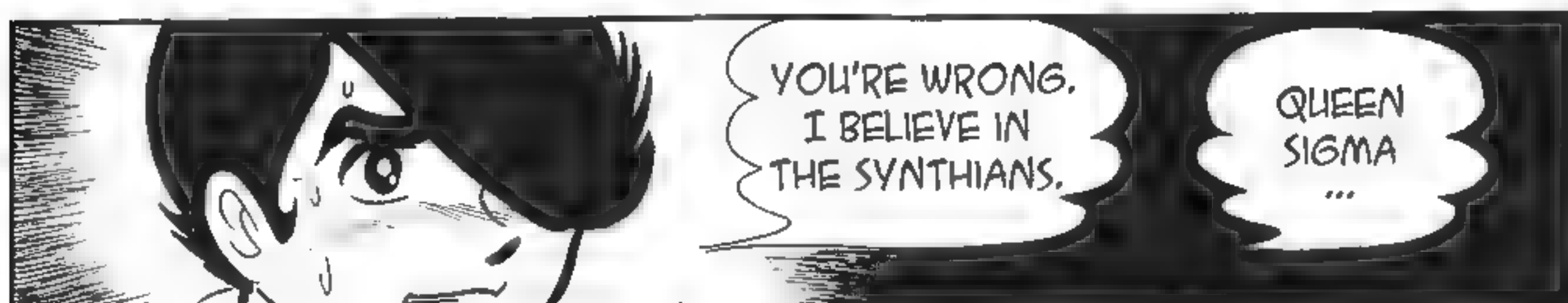




BY THE TIME
THEY SAW WHAT
WAS HAPPENING,
IT WAS TOO LATE!
THE CITIES WERE PILED HIGH
WITH CORPSES 'CAUSE OF
THE POISONOUS GASES!
AND THE SYNTHIANS
THEY DONE MADE WITH
THEIR CLONING MAGIC
TOOK AFTER THE CITY
SLICKERS WHO
MADE 'EM!







BUT
THE
QUEEN
IS DEAD!

WAS
SHE
REBORN
AGAIN?



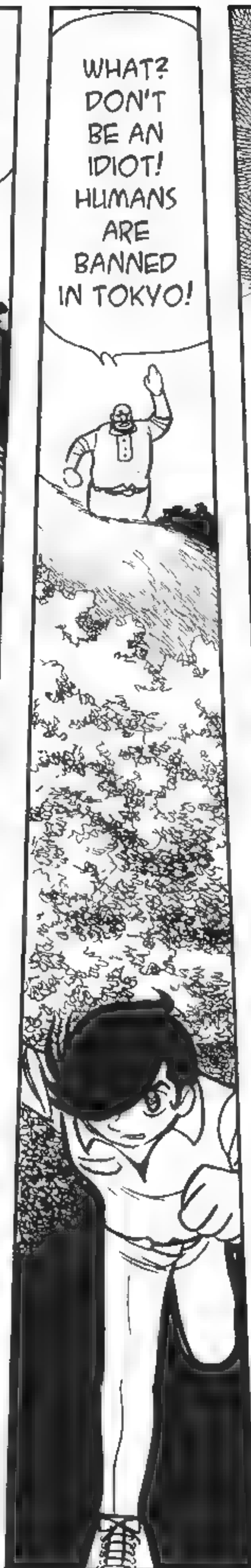
OH,
RIGHT!

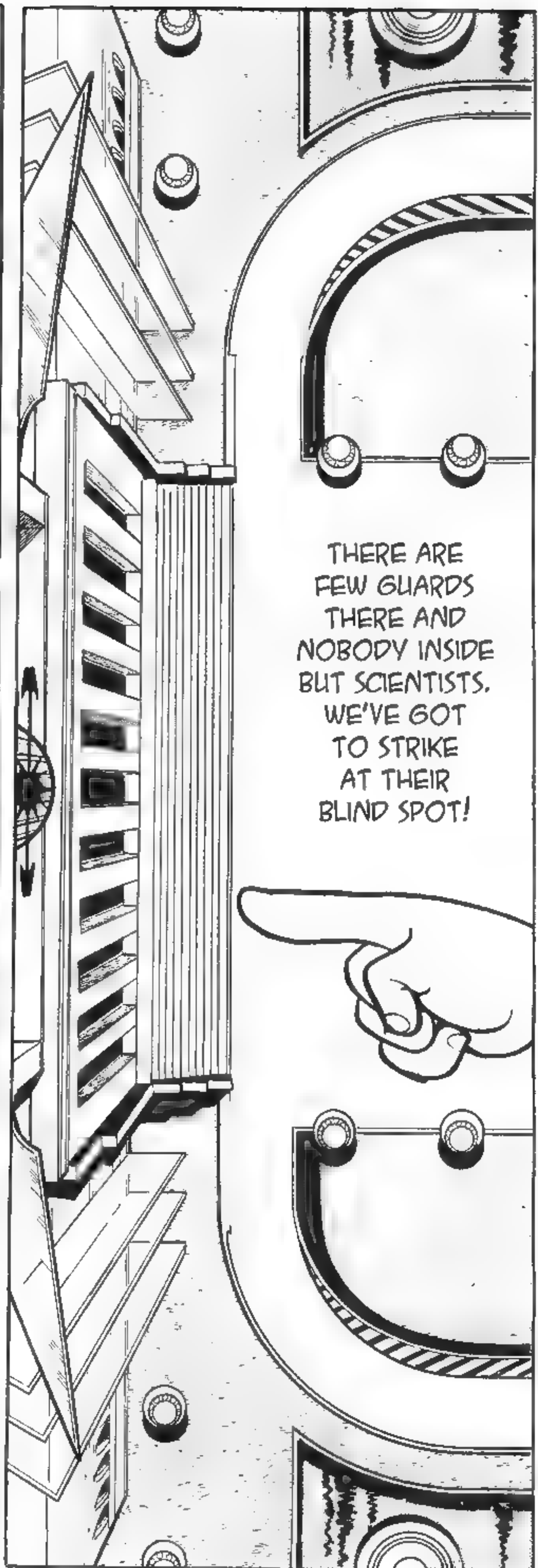
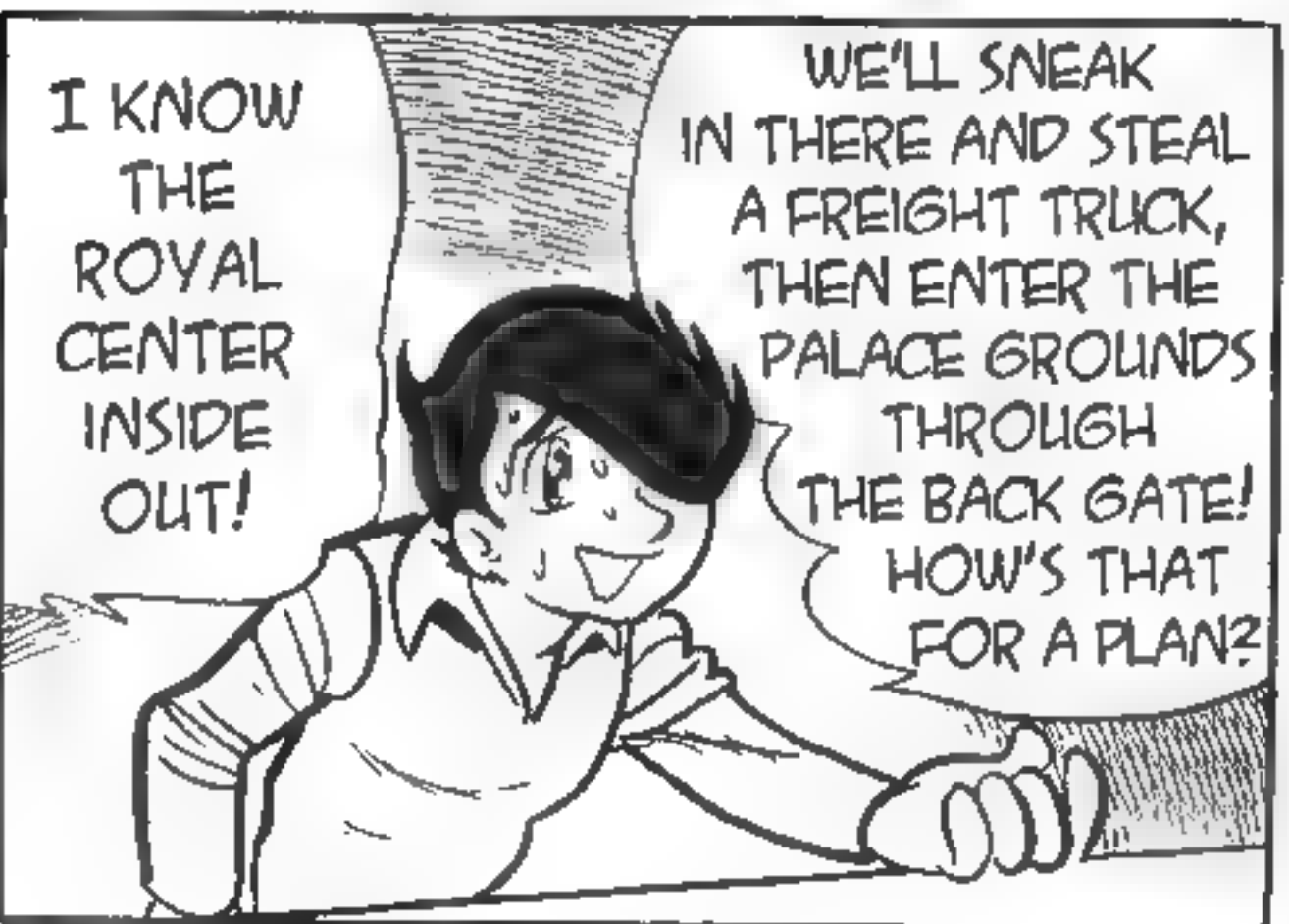
HER
HEAD!



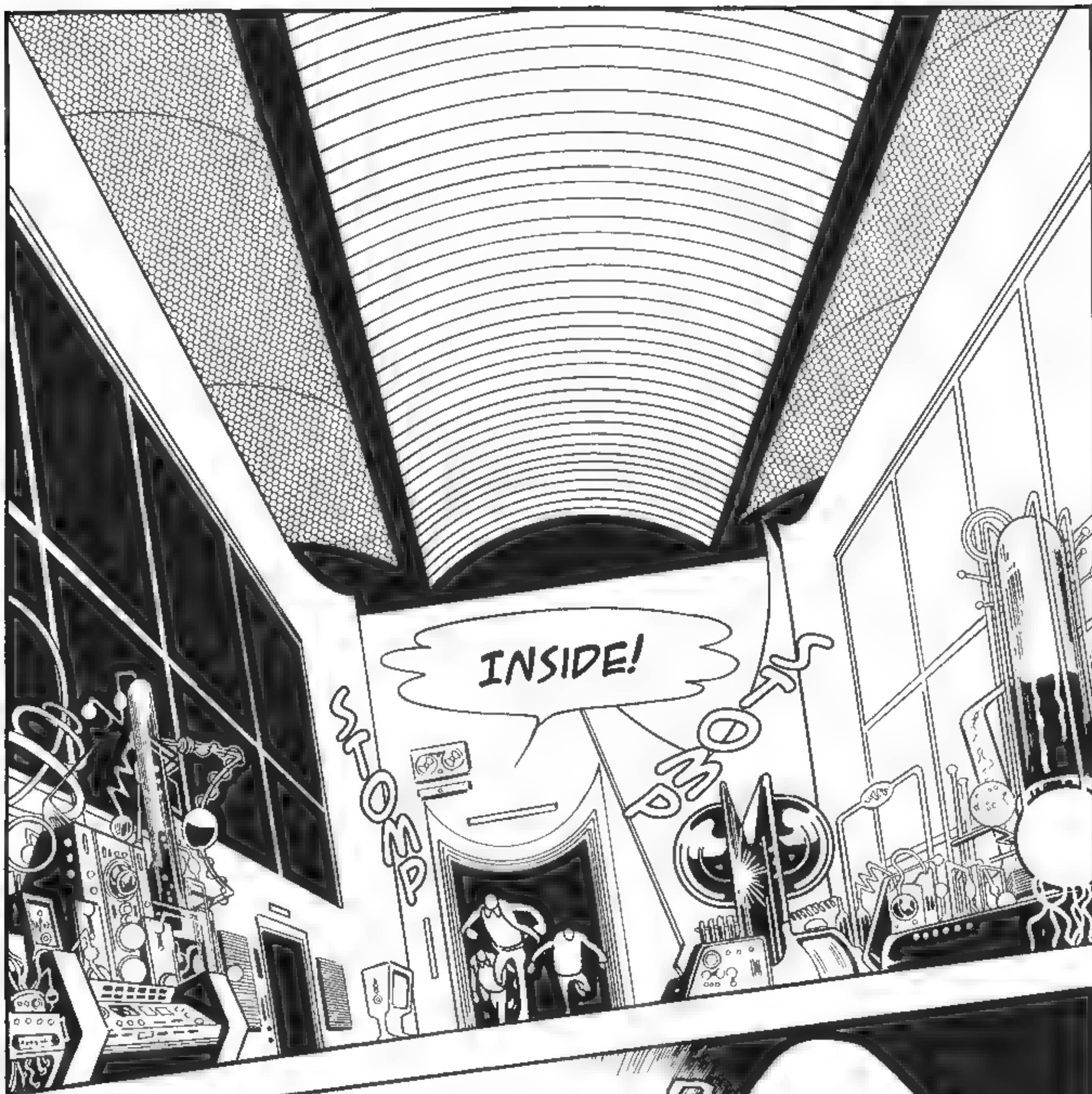
THEY MADE
ANOTHER
QUEEN
FROM
HER HEAD!











WHOA!





THESE ARE ALL
THE QUEEN'S BODY!
SOME OF THEM
AREN'T EVEN
FINISHED YET.

ALL RIGHT,
YOU! WHAT
ON EARTH'S
GOING
ON HERE?
TELL US!

P.M. BIBIMBA
ORDERED US
TO REGENERATE
THE QUEEN
FROM A PIECE
OF HER BODY,

OVER AND OVER!
WE'VE REMADE
THE QUEEN...
OH...FIFTY
TIMES OR SO!!

BUT EVERY
TIME WE HAD
TO REDO IT.

FOR SOME
REASON...



ALL OF
THE QUEENS
WE'VE
MANAGED
TO GROW



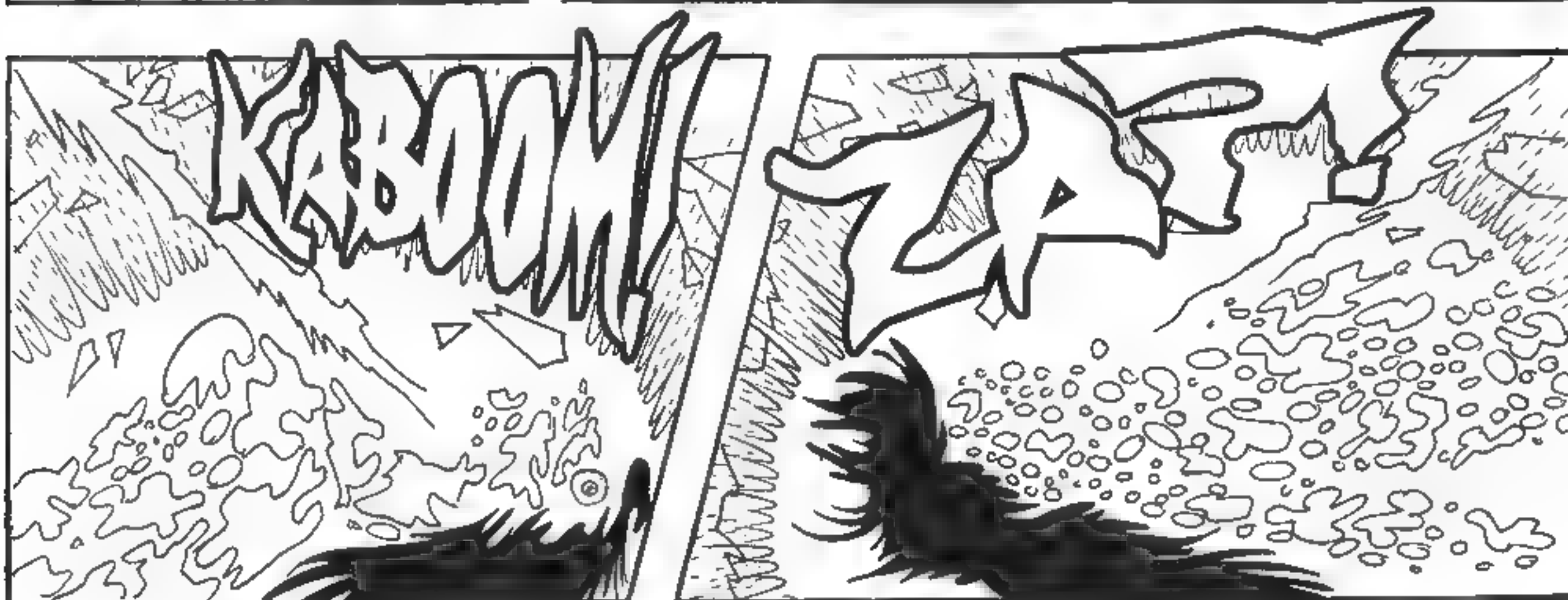
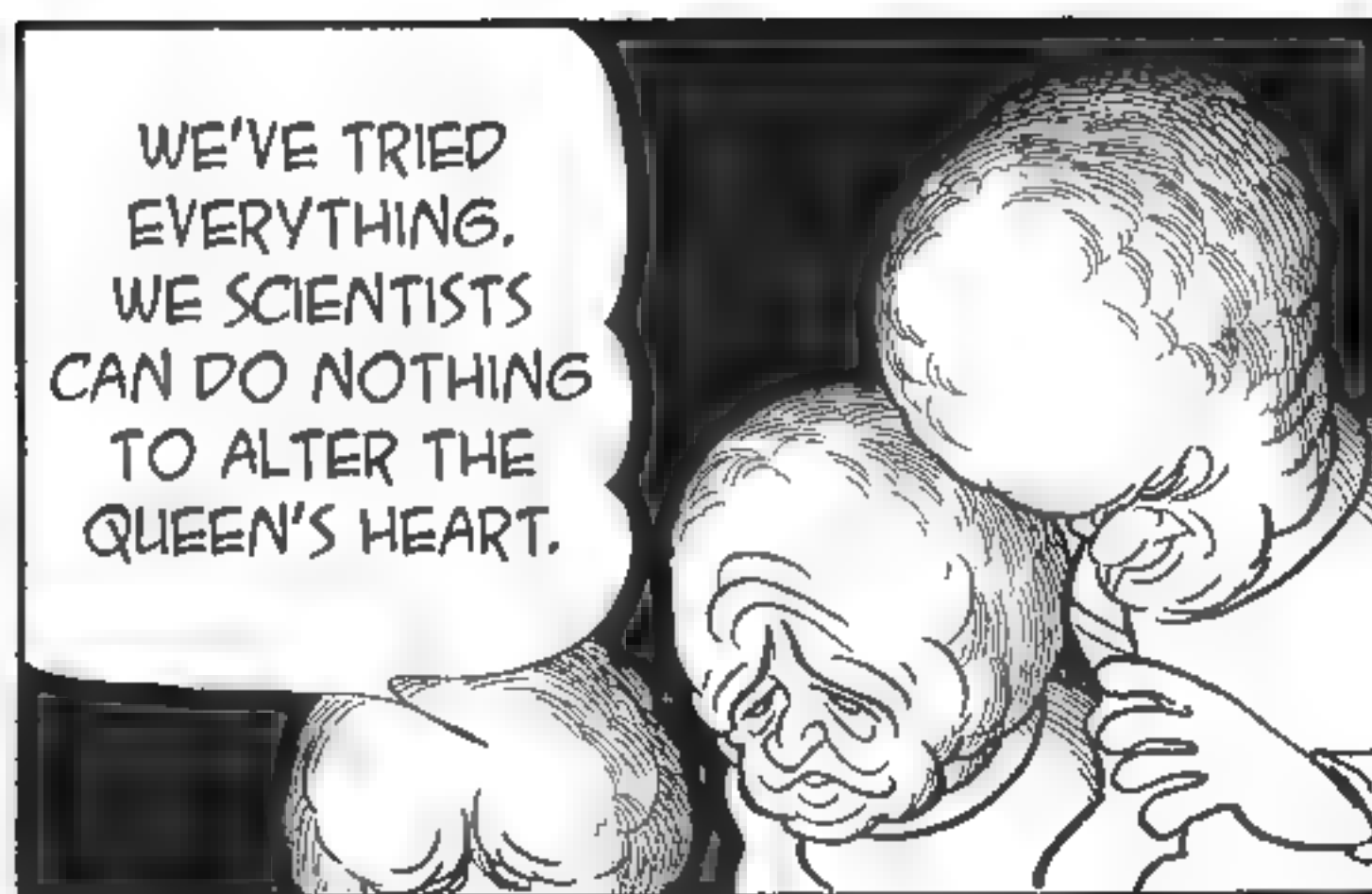
KEEP CALLING
YOUR NAME.
WE CAN'T WIPE
AWAY HER
AFFECTION
FOR YOU!

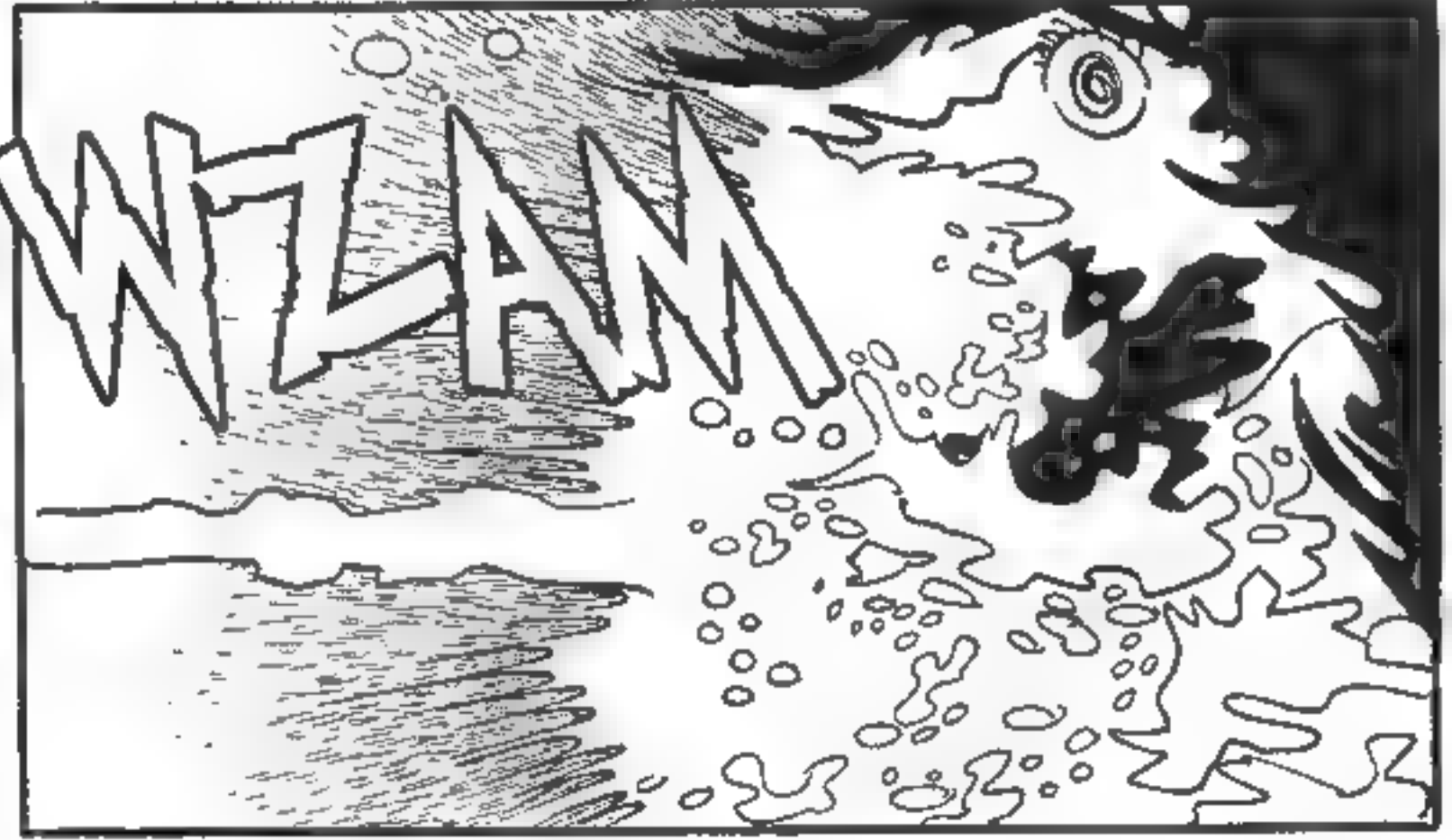
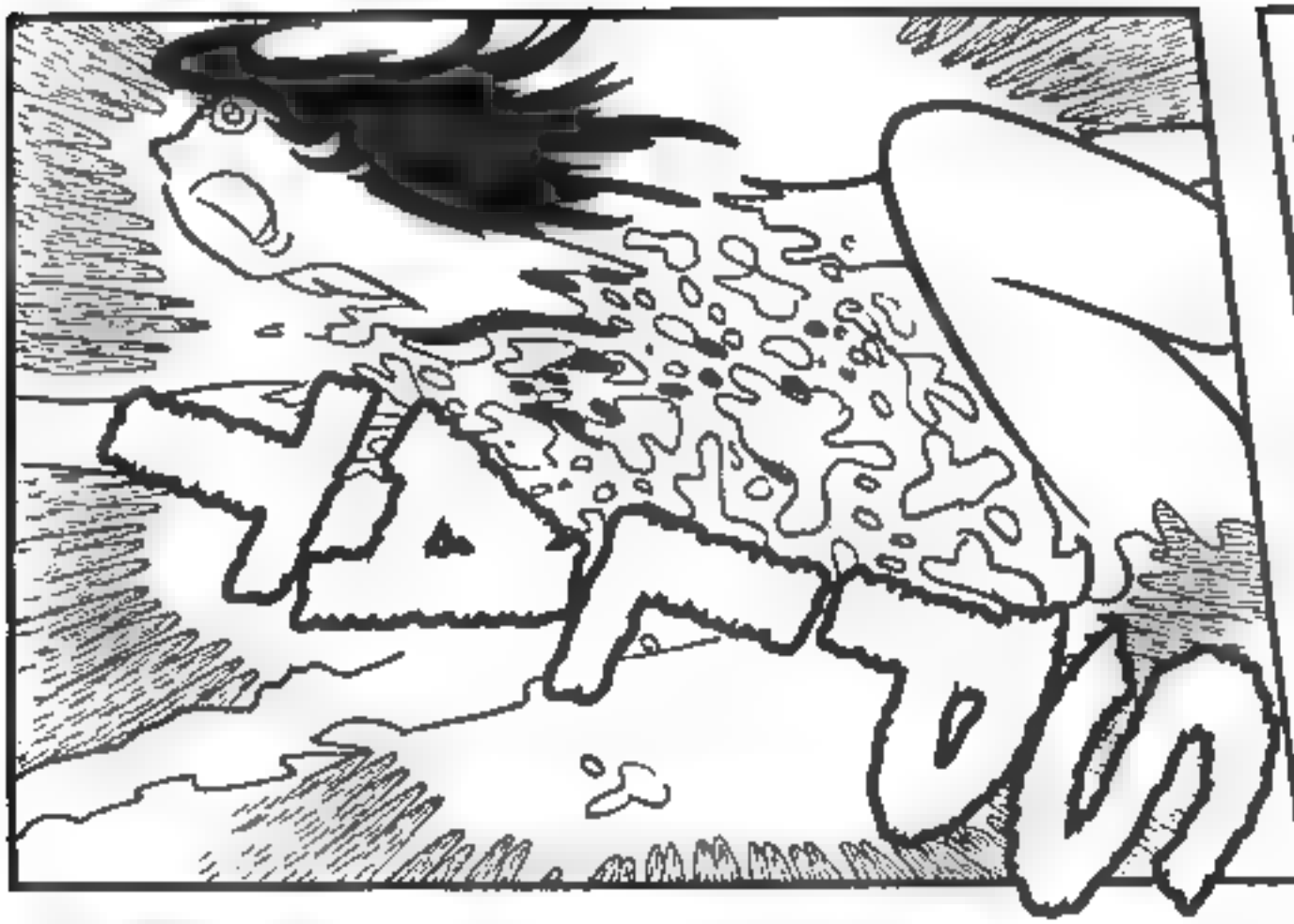


P.M. BIBIMBA IS
FURIOUS! WE'VE
TRIED TO ERASE
YOU FROM THE
QUEEN'S HEART.

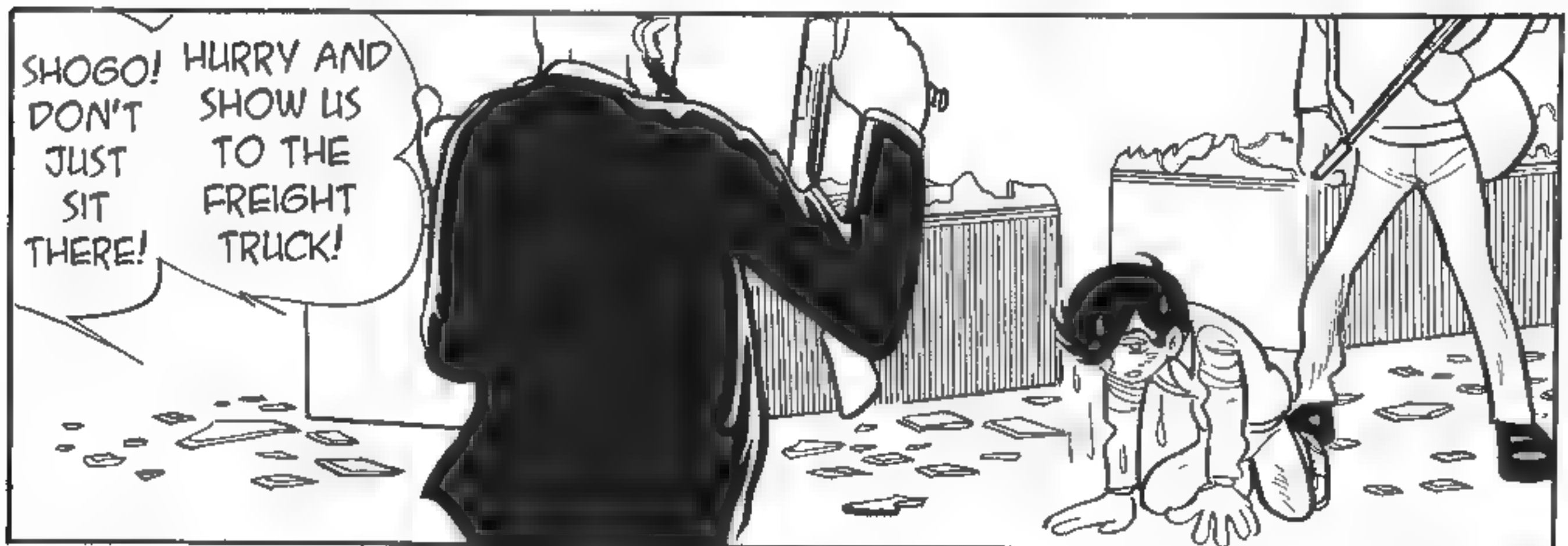


BUT
NO MATTER
HOW MANY
OF HER
WE MAKE,
IT'S NO
GOOD!!



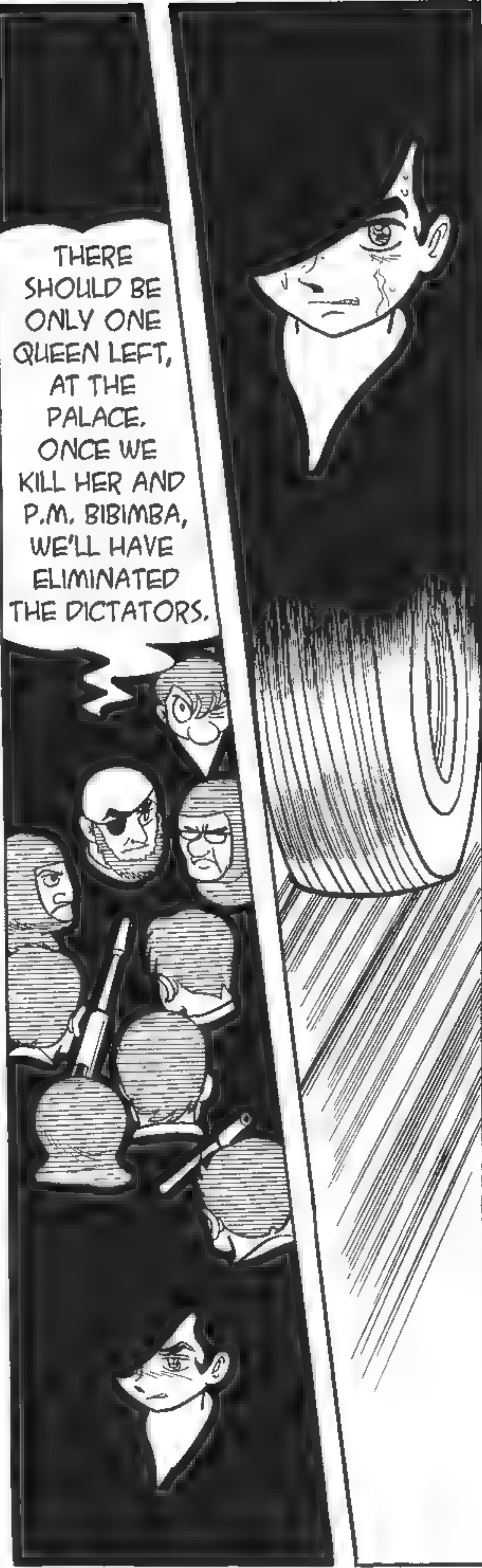


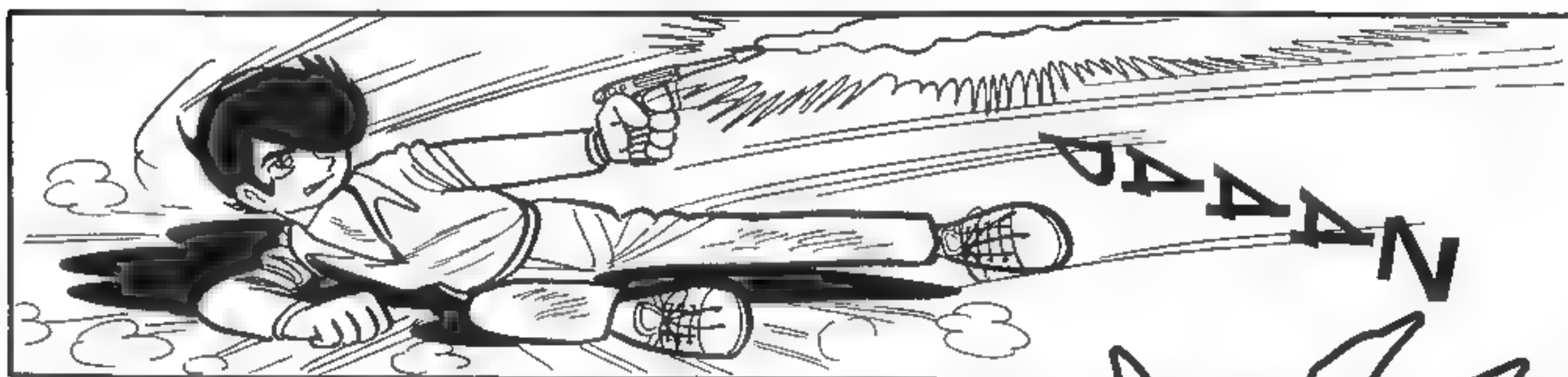


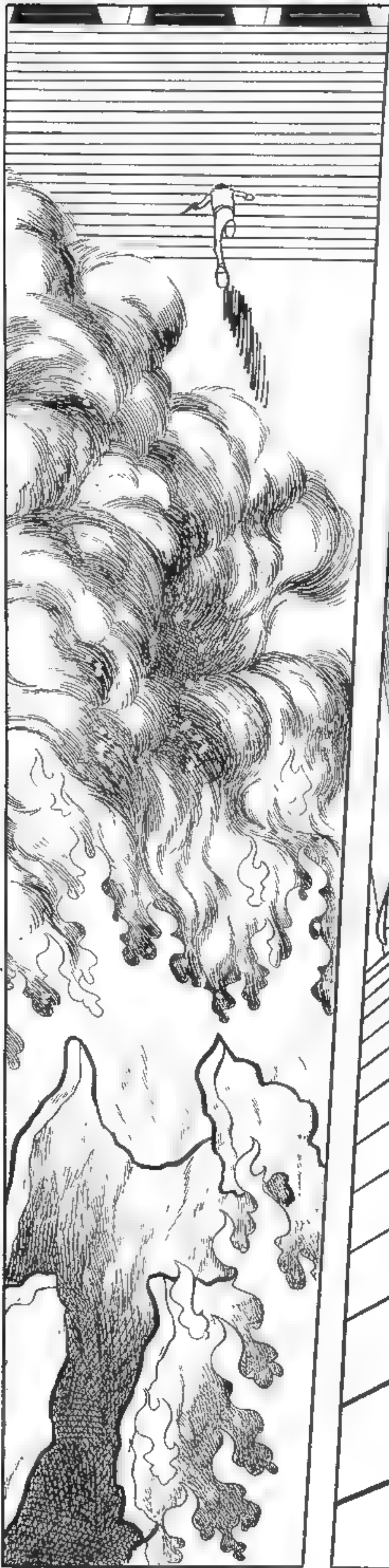




THERE
SHOULD BE
ONLY ONE
QUEEN LEFT,
AT THE
PALACE.
ONCE WE
KILL HER AND
P.M. BIBIMBA,
WE'LL HAVE
ELIMINATED
THE DICTATORS.



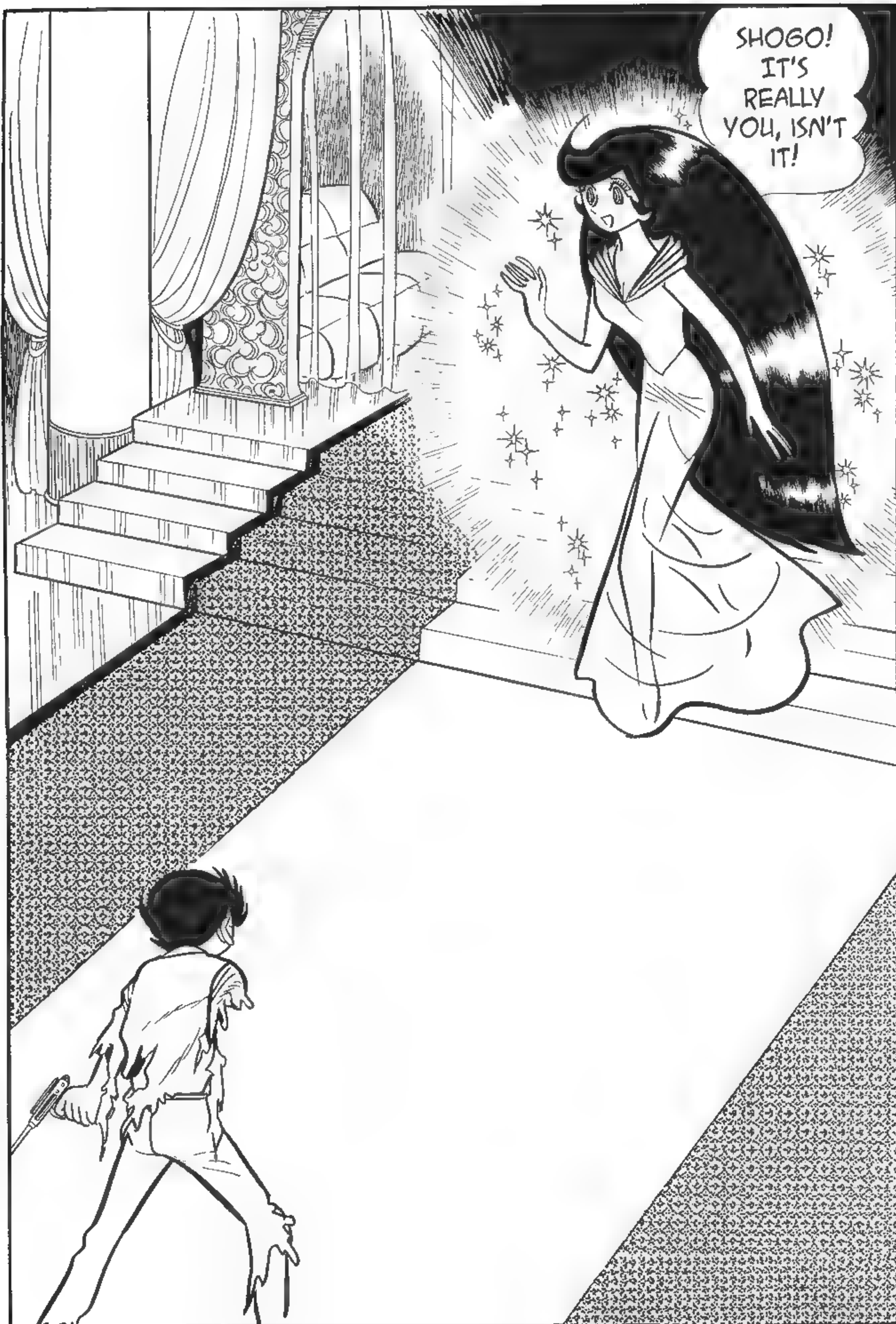






WTF





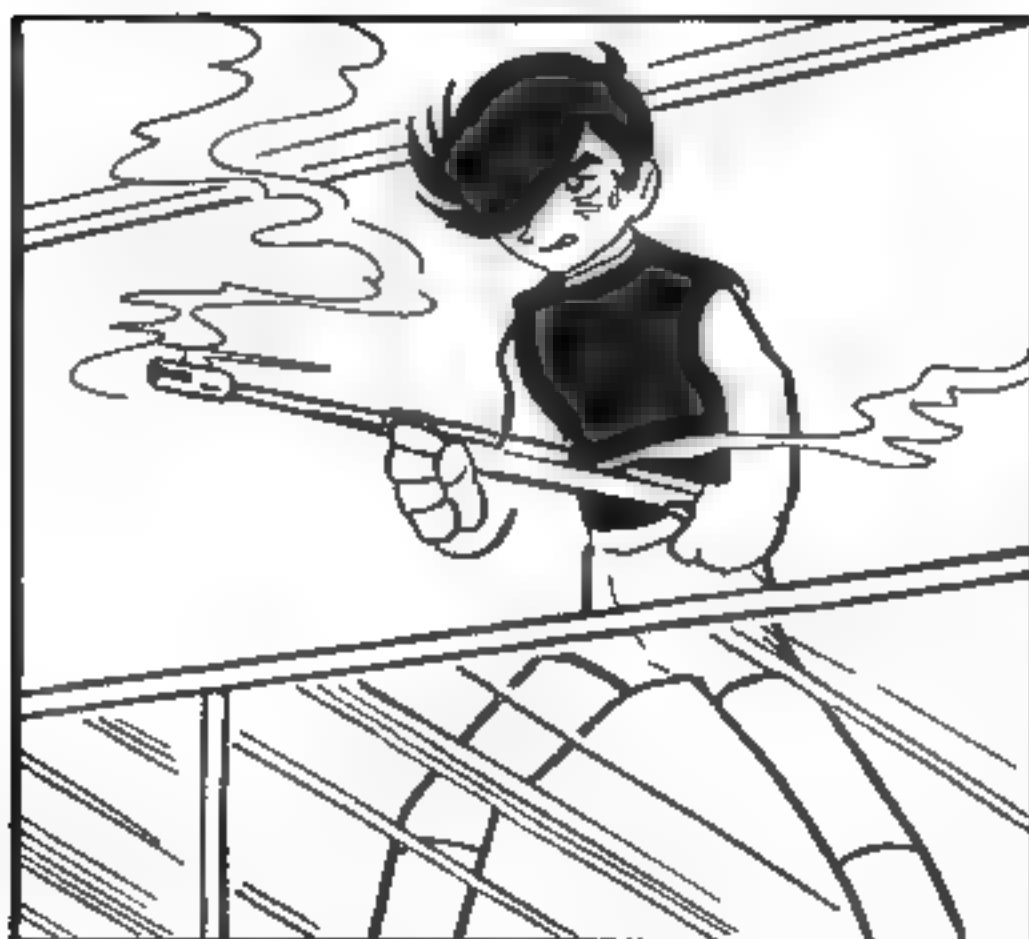
I'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR THIS DAY!
I KNEW YOU'D COME
BACK! I KNEW IT!



NOBODY CAN COME
BETWEEN US NOW!
THE P.M. AND THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
ARE ALL DEAD!
YOU AND I CAN GO
WHEREVER WE WANT!

BETWEEN US NOW!
THE P.M. AND THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
ARE ALL DEAD!
YOU AND I CAN GO
WHEREVER WE WANT!

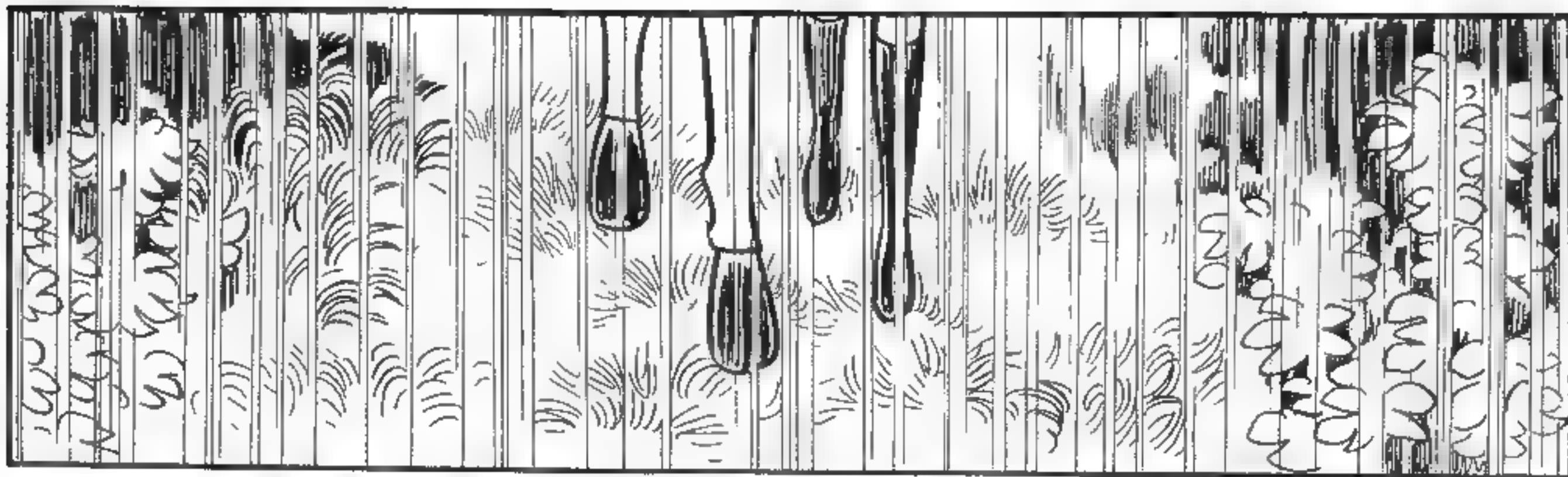
AH!!











FLASH

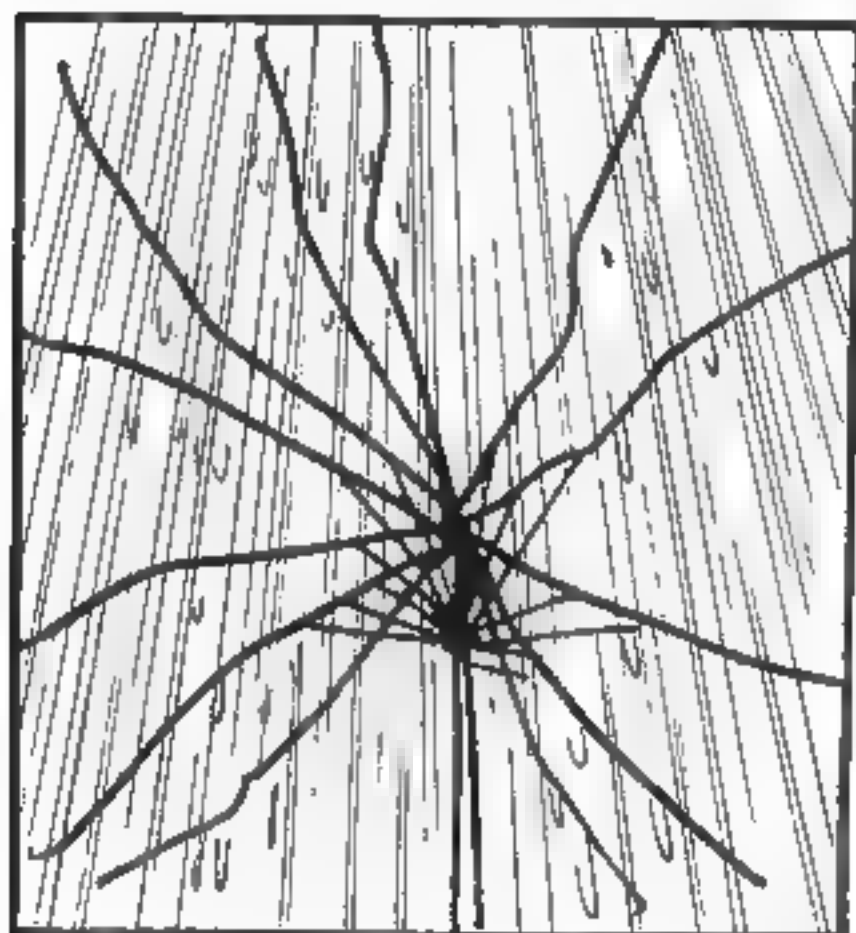
BOOM BOOM

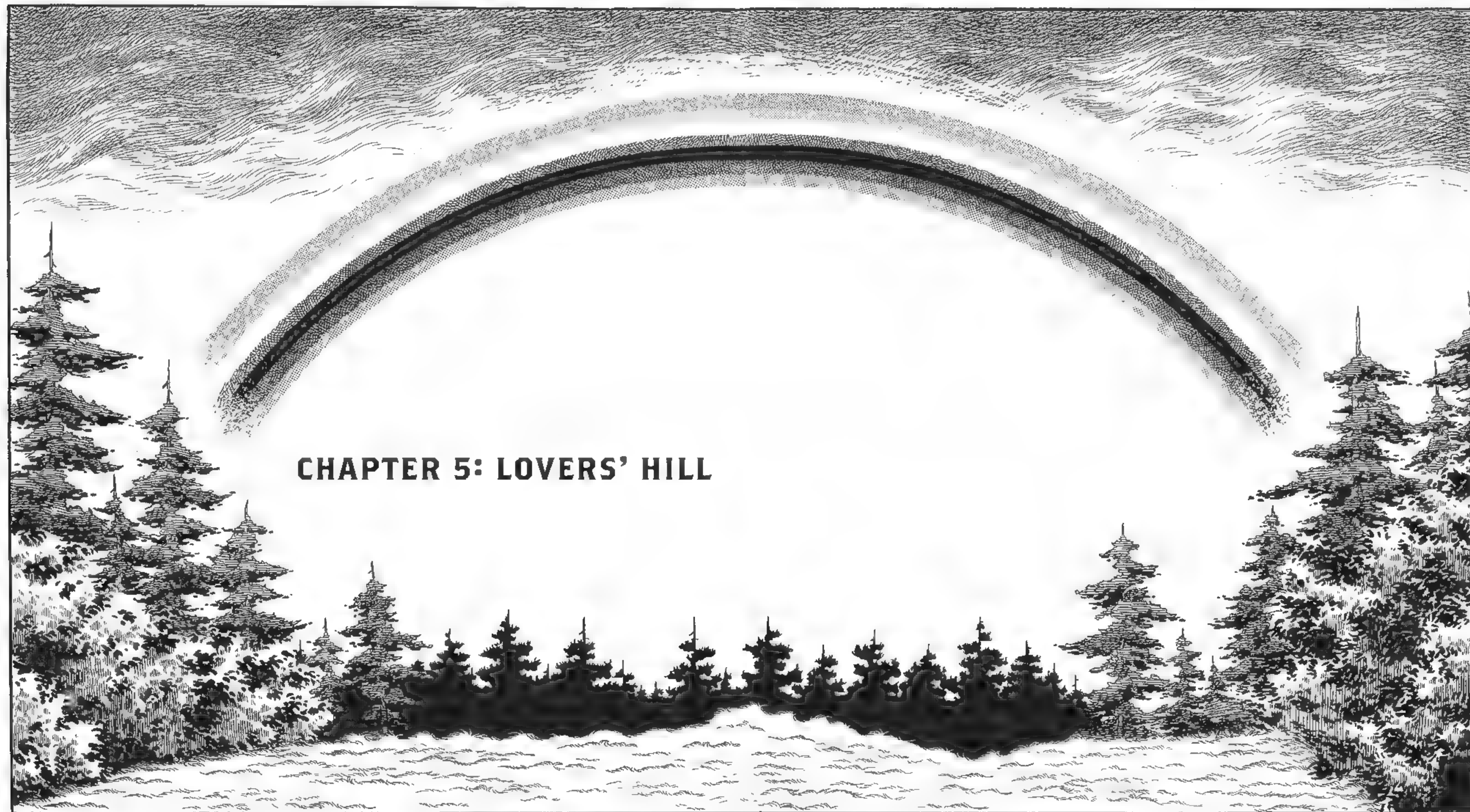
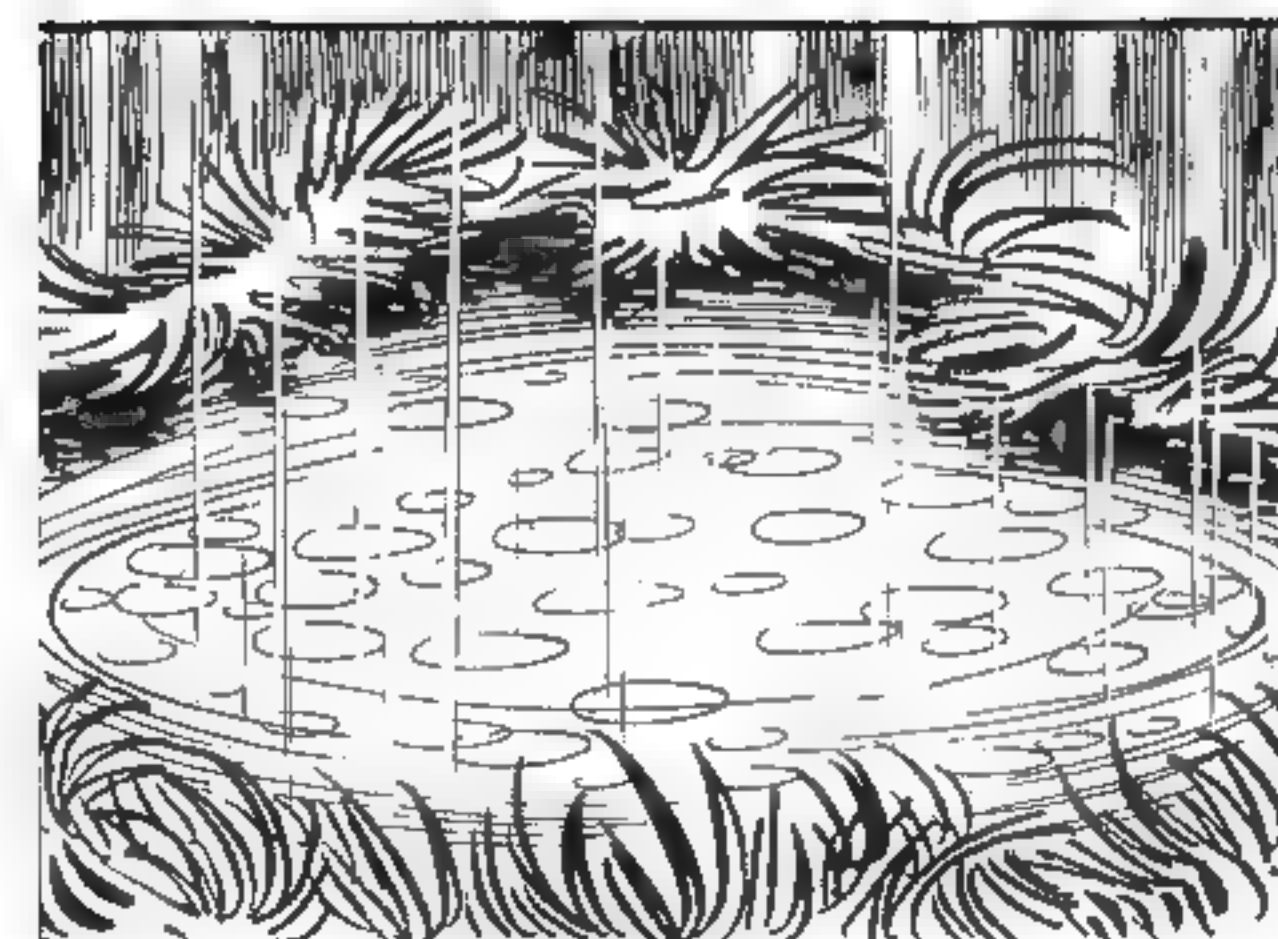
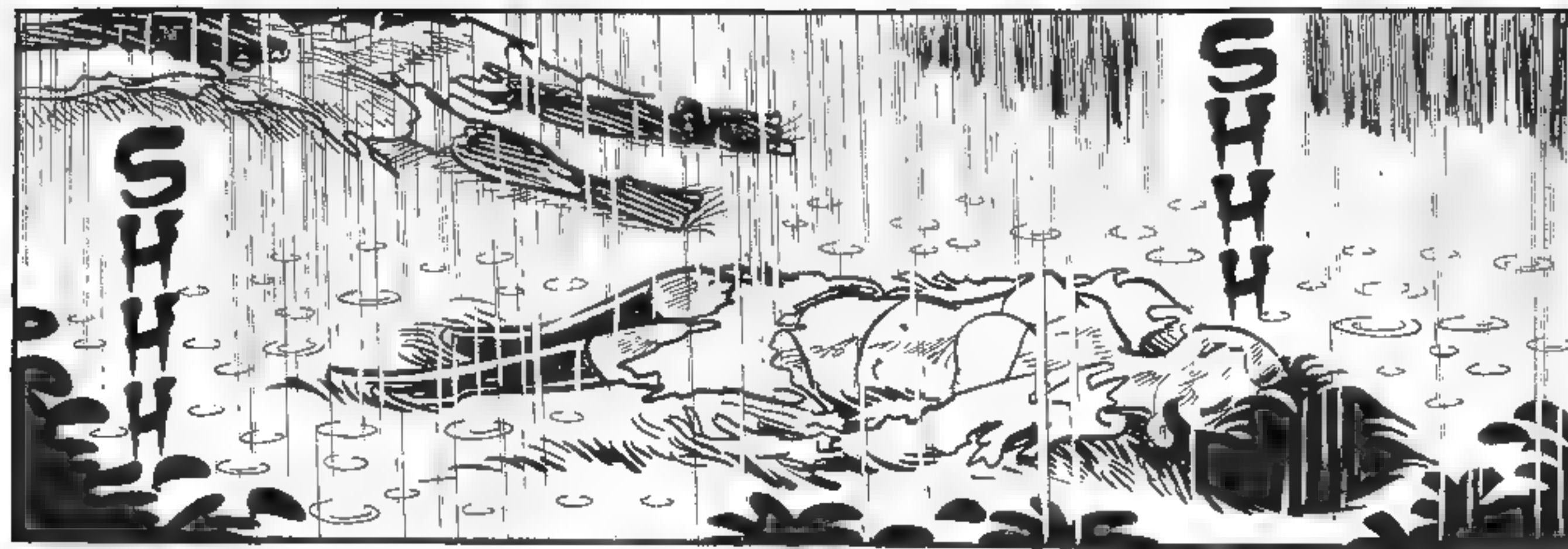
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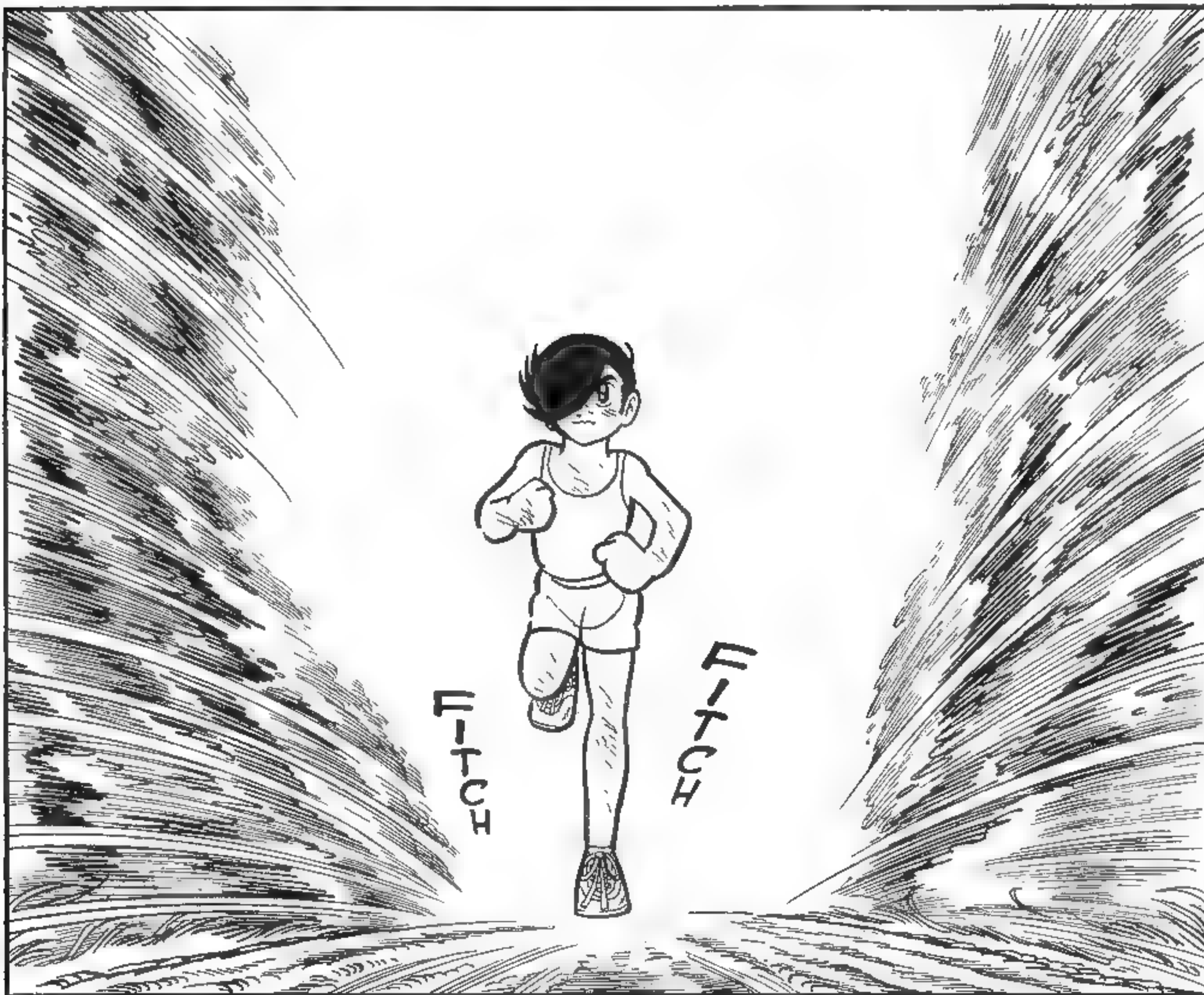
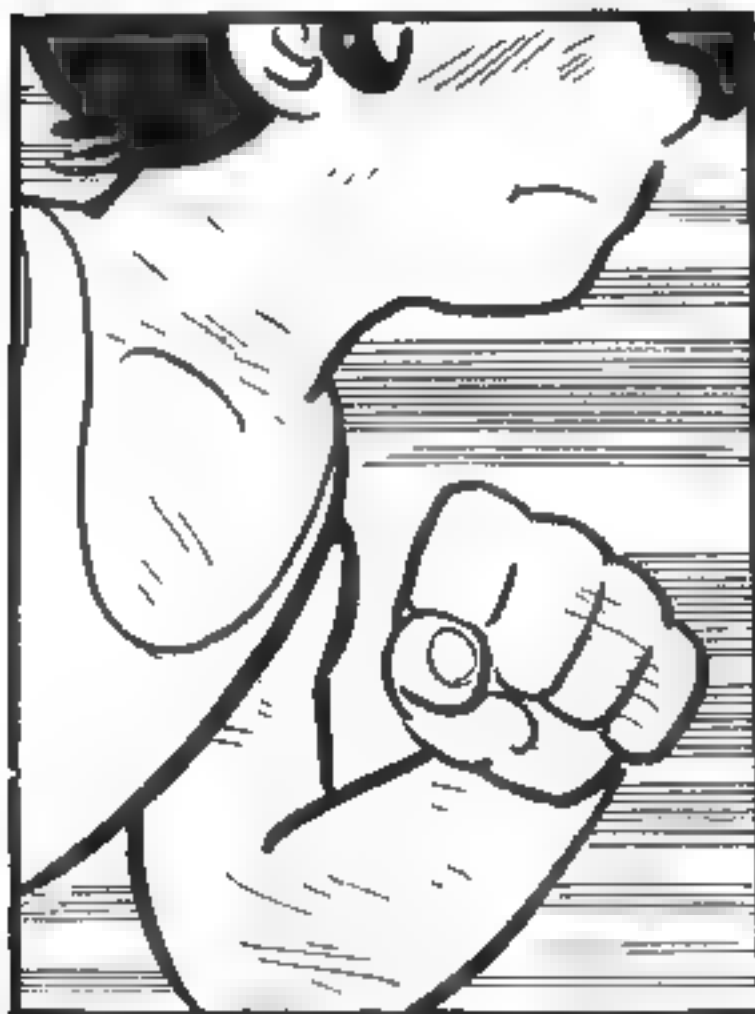
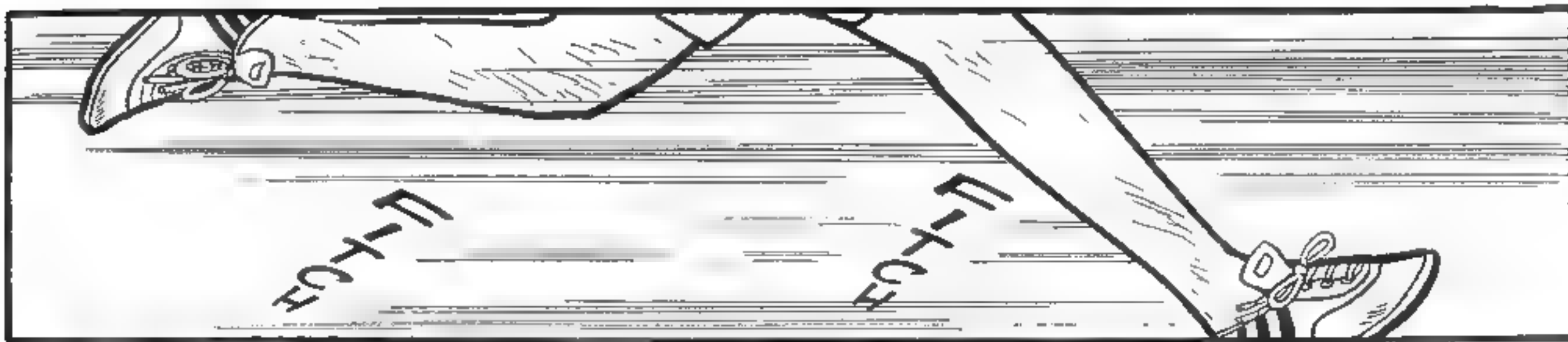
BOOM

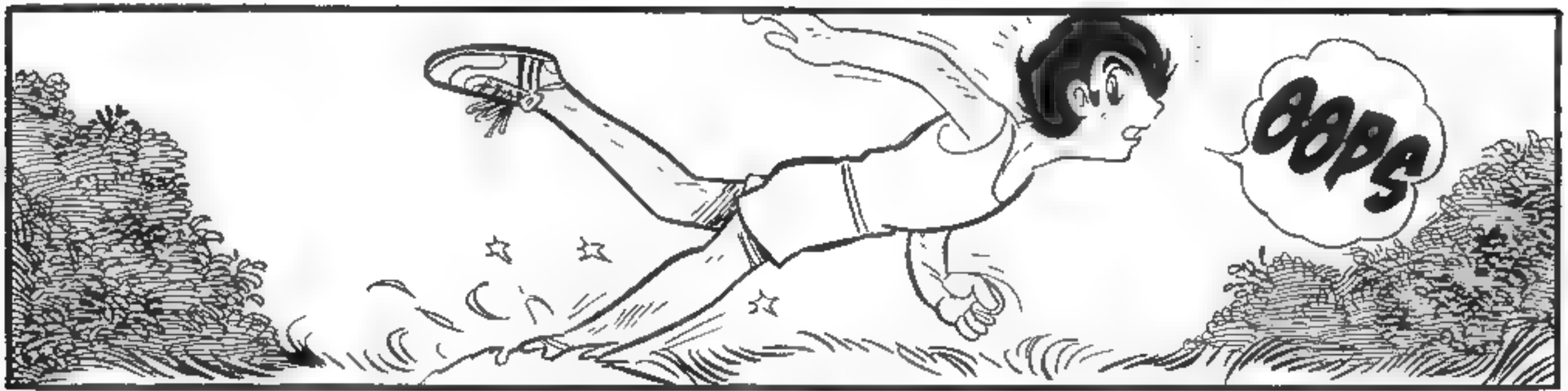
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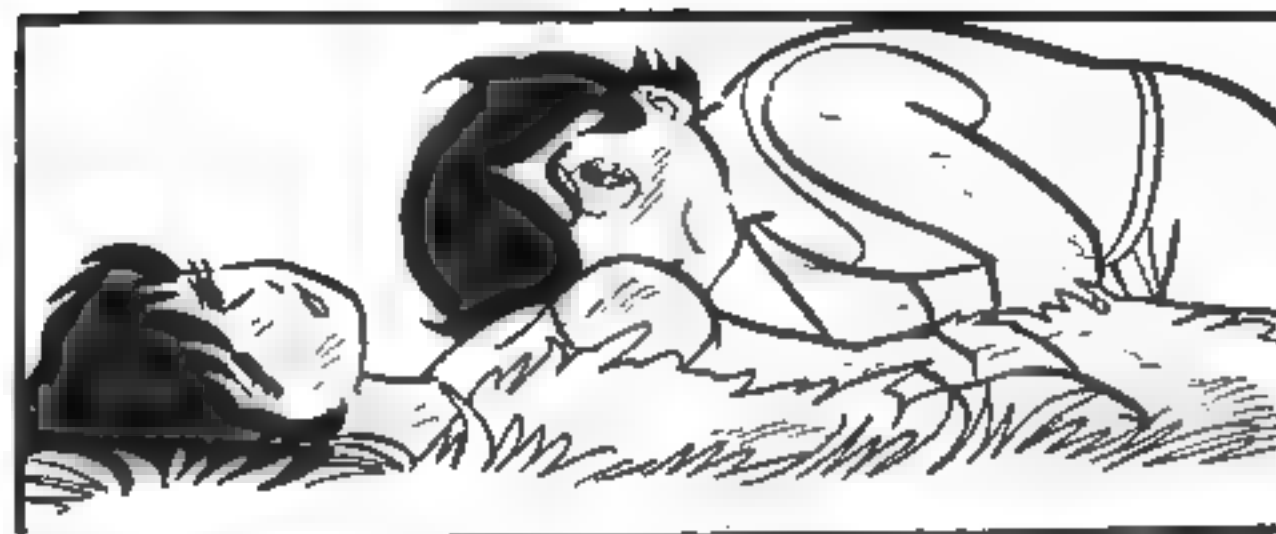
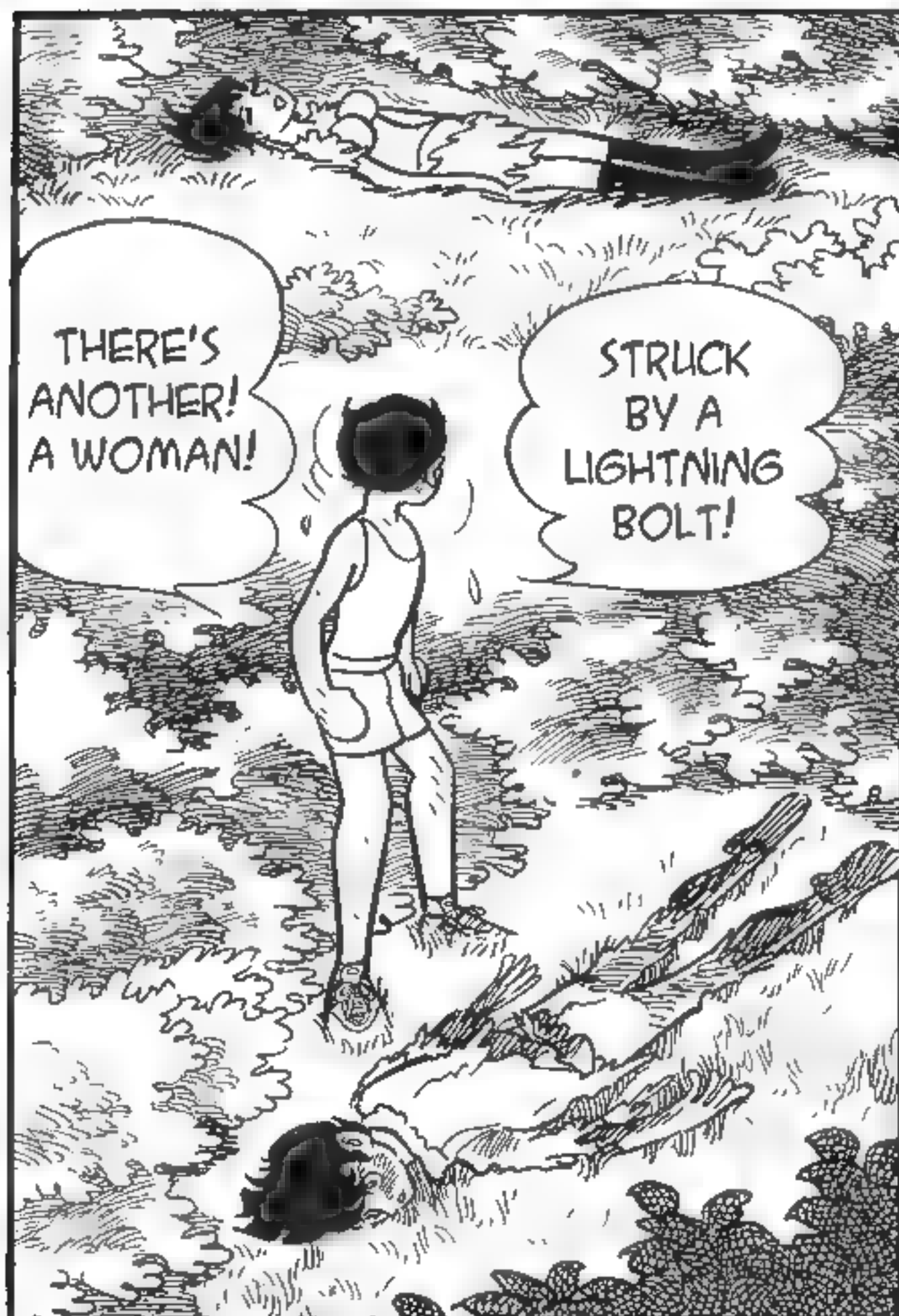
BOOM





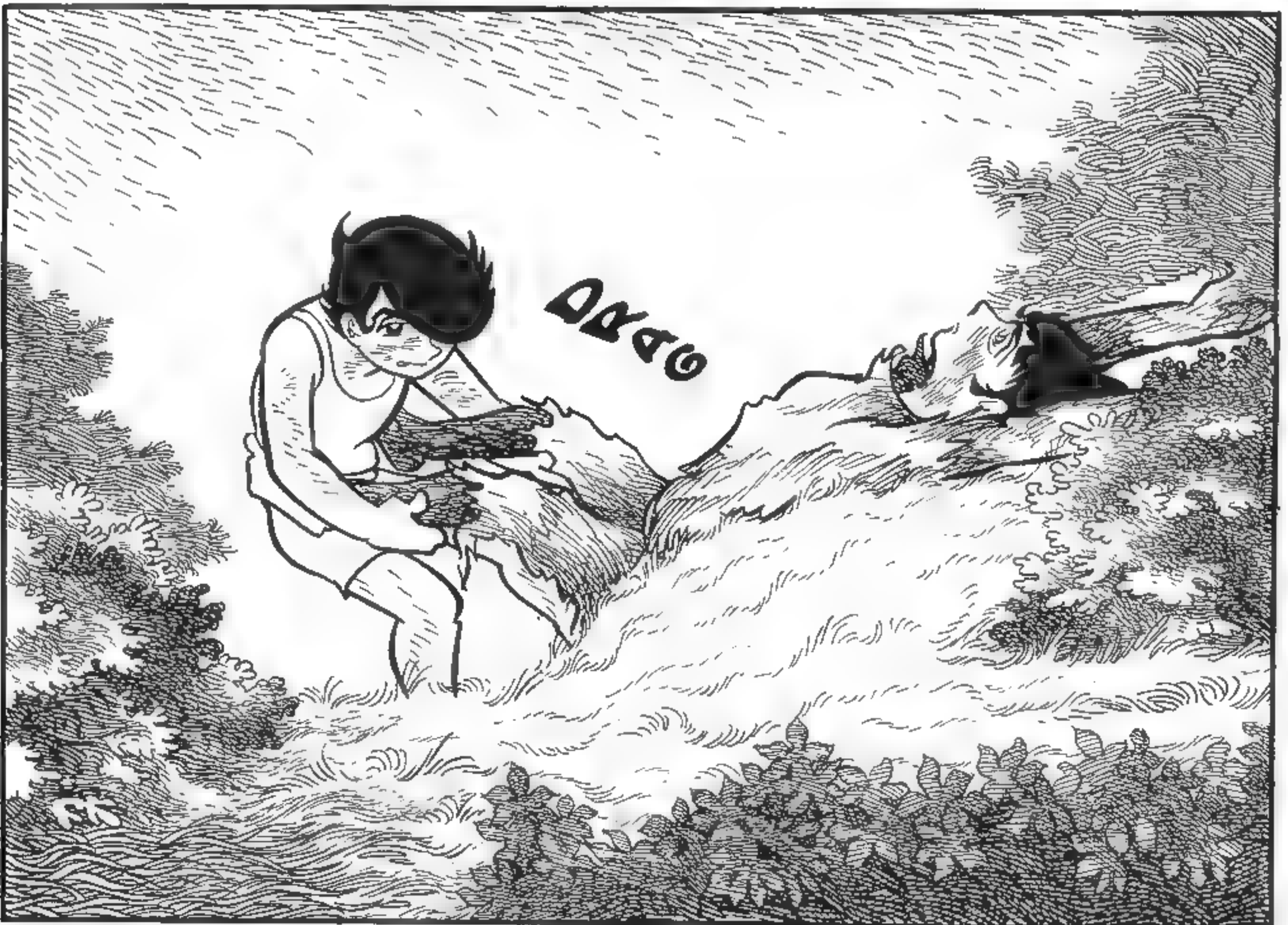
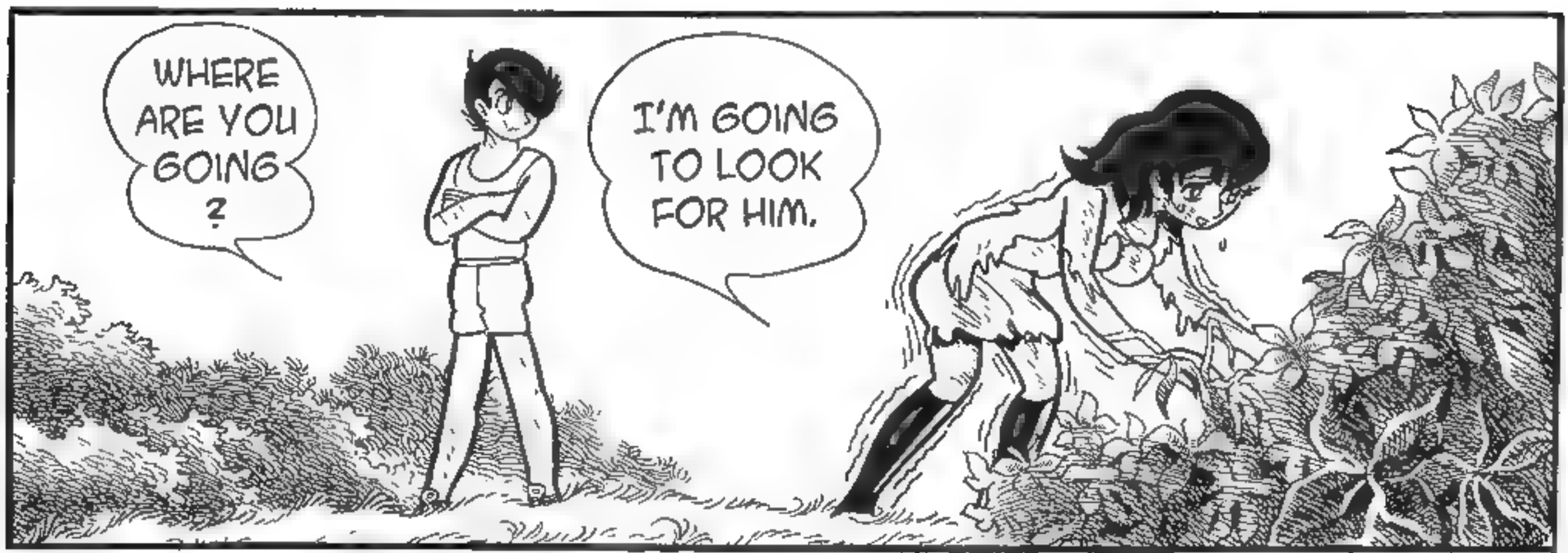




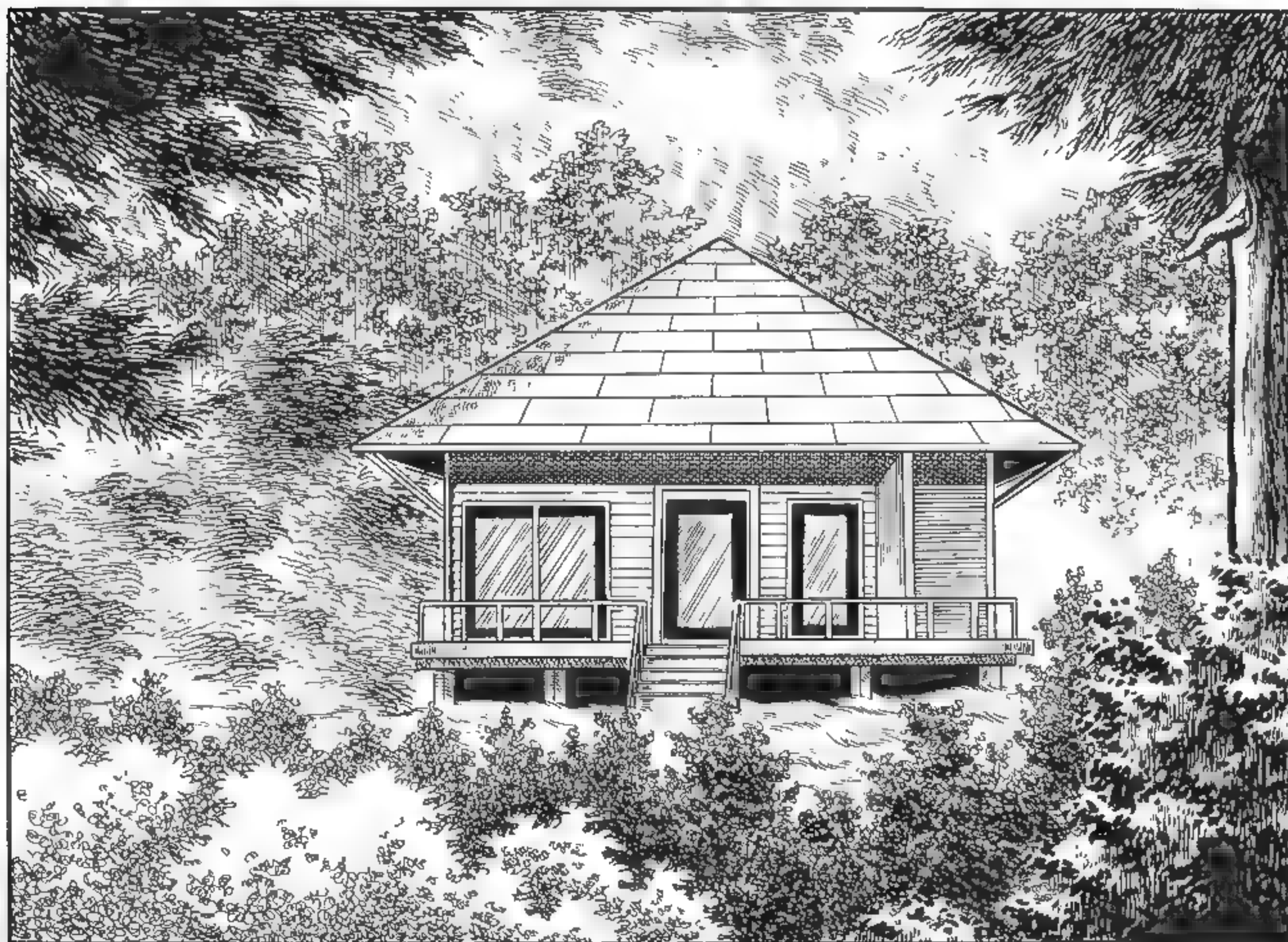






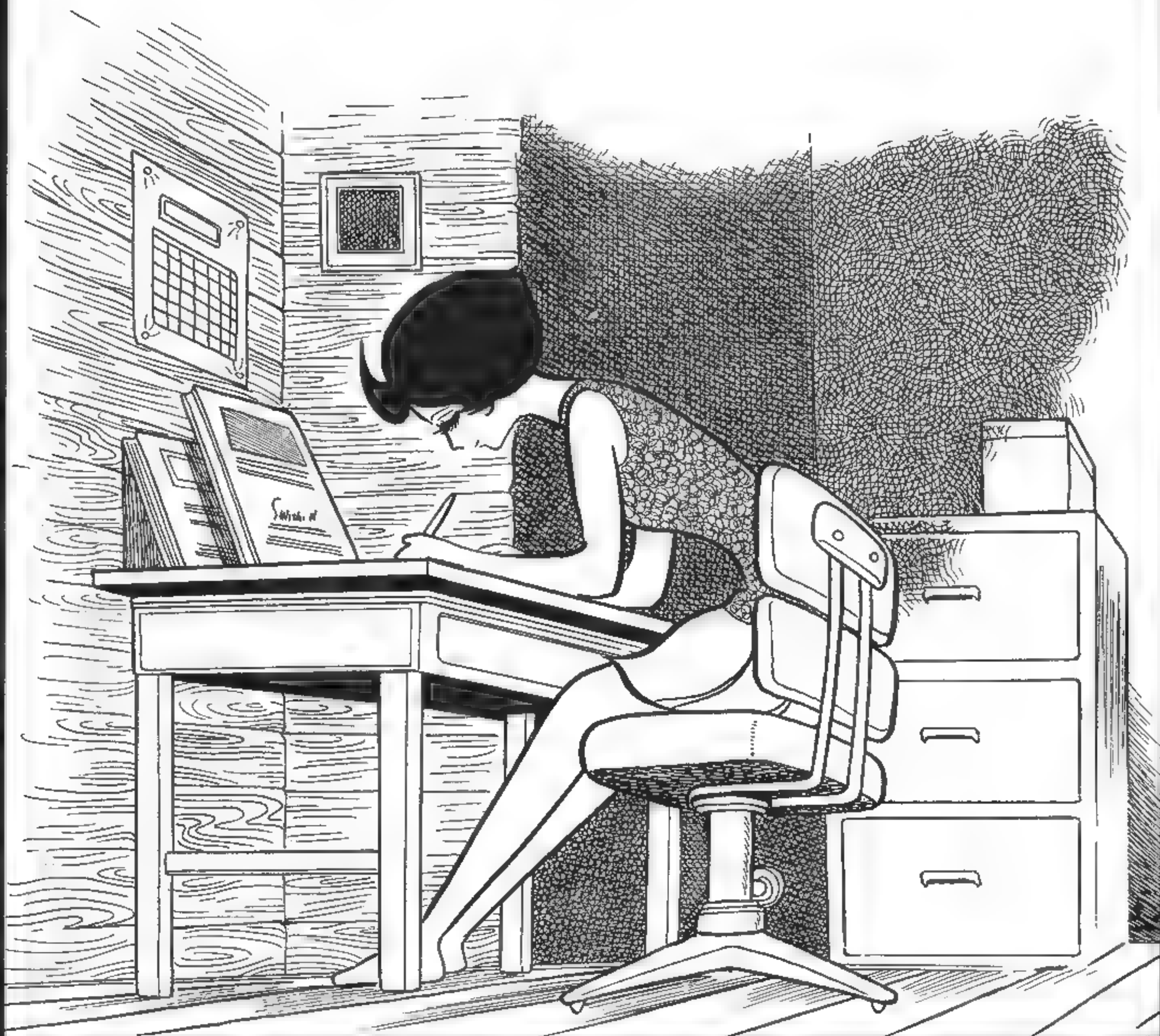






DEAR DOCTOR,
THIS IS YOUR STUDENT, HIROMI WATARI.
I AM NOW LIVING IN A MOUNTAIN CABIN DEEP IN HAKONE
WITH A PATIENT NAMED SHOGO CHIKAISHI.
YOU KNOW HIM WELL, DON'T YOU, DOCTOR?
THAT'S RIGHT, THE SAME PATIENT WHO WAS IN YOUR CARE
BEFORE HE ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

DOCTOR, I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER SHOGO FOR
SOME TIME NOW. MY OBJECTIVE WAS TO DETERMINE
THE ROOT OF HIS PERSONALITY ISSUES,
HIS AVERSION TO LOVE, AND TO ATTEMPT METHODS
OF TREATING HIM. KNOWING HOW TENACIOUS
HE IS AND HOW STRONG HIS LEGS ARE,
I HAVE BEEN TRAINING HIM AS A MARATHON RUNNER.
AT FIRST, HE WAS EXTREMELY DISTRUSTFUL,
BUT HE HAS COME TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING I SAY.



SHOGO'S TERRIBLE
CRUELTY IS ROOTED
IN A COMPLEX HE
DEVELOPED AS A CHILD.
FROM A VERY YOUNG
AGE, WHENEVER HE
WITNESSED LOVE
AND TENDERNESS,
HE WAS SUBJECTED TO
THE TERROR OF BEING
SEVERELY BEATEN
BY HIS MOTHER.

THAT FEAR
DEVELOPED
INTO
HATRED,
AND
A LOATHING
OF LOVE
ITSELF.

I HAVE
BEEN
TREATING
SHOGO WITH
GREAT CARE.
WHEN
HE ASKED
ME FOR
A KISS,
I WILLINGLY
COMPLIED.



DOCTOR, SHOGO
IS BEGINNING
TO UNDERSTAND
THE SANCTITY OF LOVE,
SLOWLY BUT SURELY.
AT THE SAME TIME,
HE HAS BEGUN TO
DEVELOP FEELINGS
FOR ME.
MY EXPERIMENT
IS A SUCCESS.
BUT, DOCTOR,
WHAT SHALL I DO?
SHOGO IS NOW
IN LOVE
WITH ME!





SHOGO IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE
THAT THIS IS AN EXPERIMENT...
HIS FEELINGS ARE GENUINE.
HE LOVES ME FROM THE HEART!
DOCTOR, WHAT DOES A PHYSICIAN DO
WHEN A PATIENT FALLS IN LOVE WITH HER?
IF SHOGO DISCOVERS THE TRUTH,
HIS HEART WILL BE BROKEN AGAIN.
DOCTOR, PLEASE ADVISE ME...







HIS FAMILY'S VERY WEALTHY, AND MINE'S NOT... SO HIS PARENTS REFUSED TO GIVE US THEIR BLESSING.



BUT WE WERE IN LOVE! DEEPLY IN LOVE!

I SEE.

SO WE DECIDED TO DEFY HIS PARENTS AND MARRY ANYHOW.

BUT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST.



BUT THERE WAS NOWHERE FOR US TO RUN!

SO THE TWO OF YOU DECIDED TO DIE TOGETHER...



I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOKE UP AND RAN AWAY!



HE PROBABLY WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

TO GET HELP!

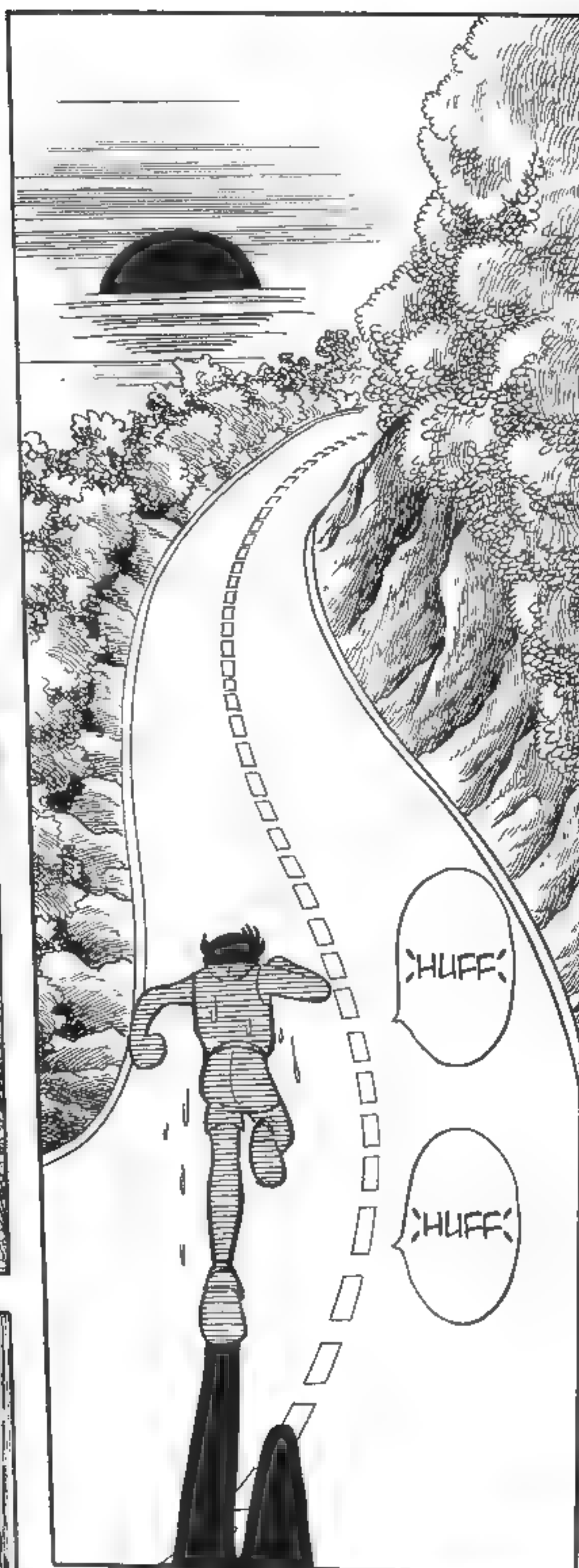
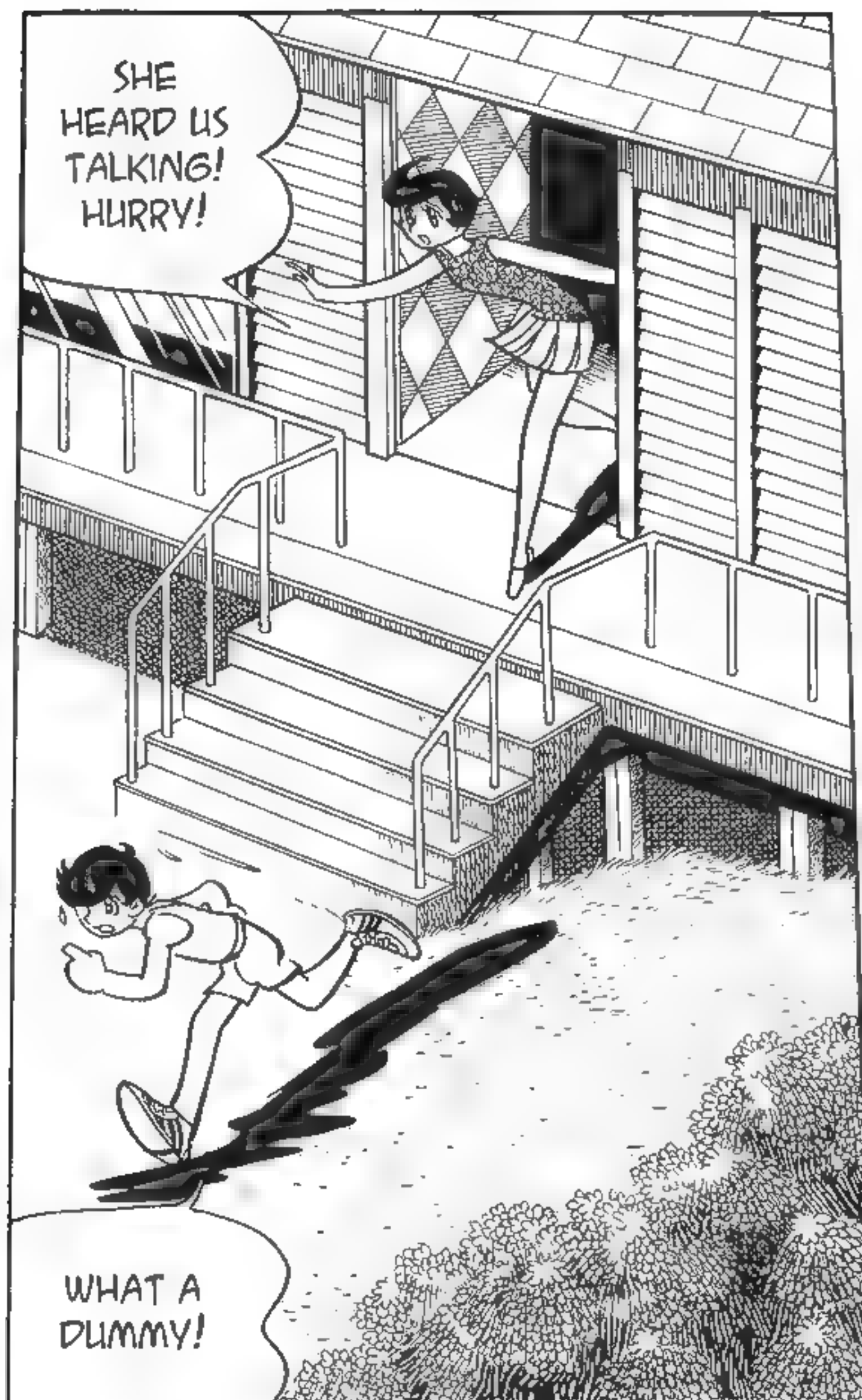
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY!

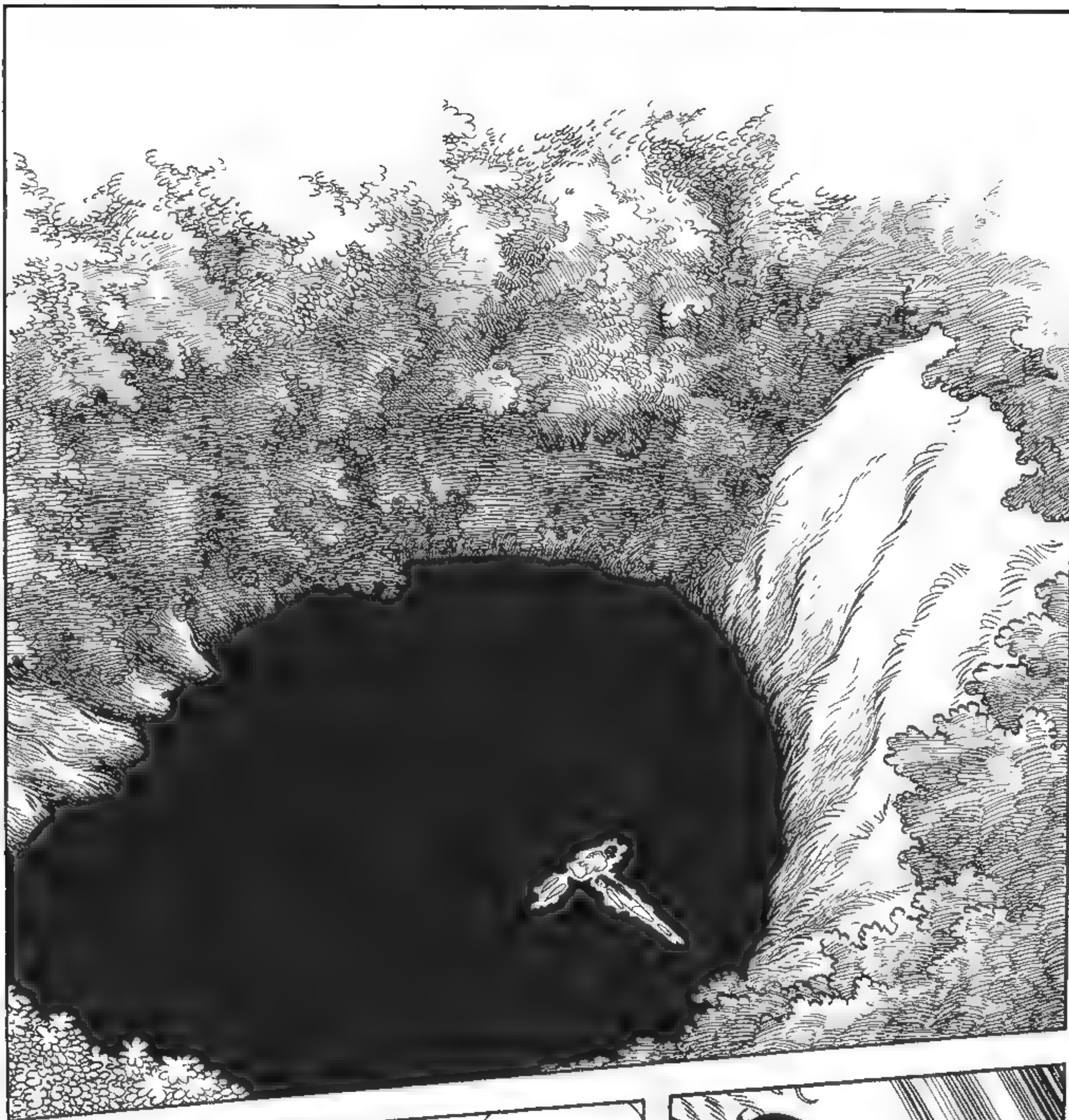


IT'S LATE. WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME SLEEP AND LOOK FOR HIM IN THE MORNING?











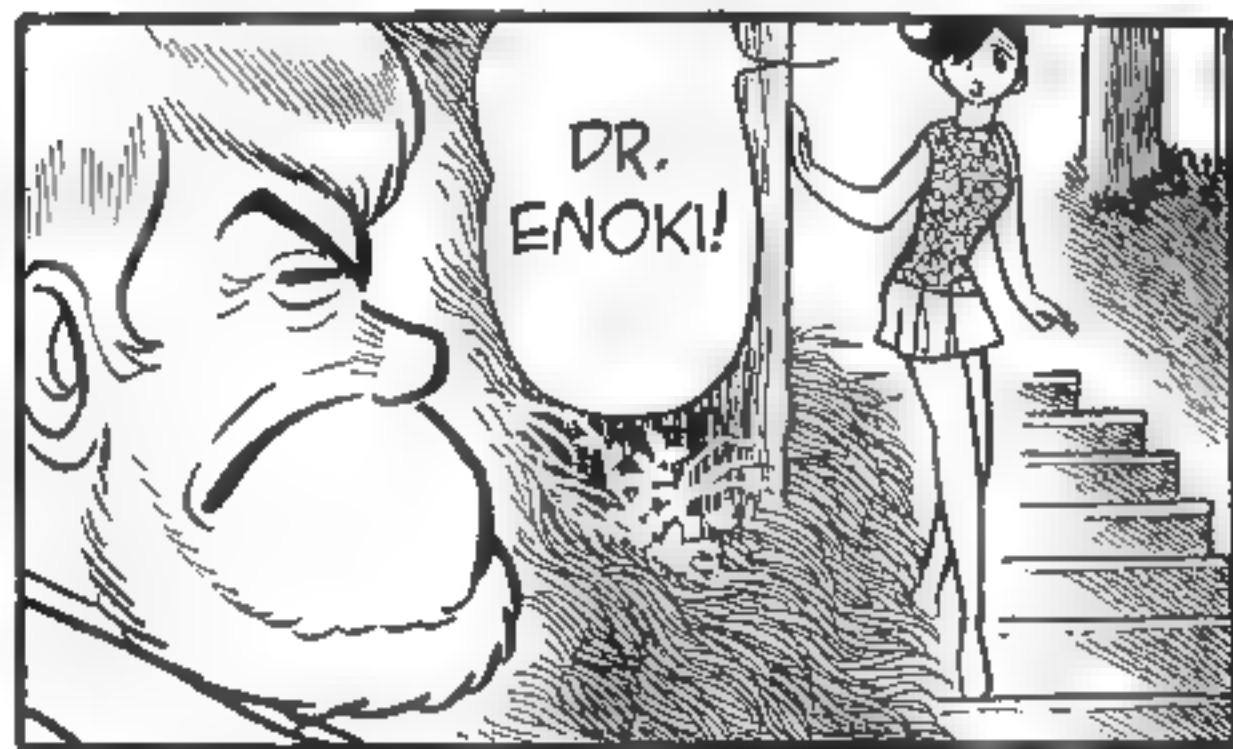


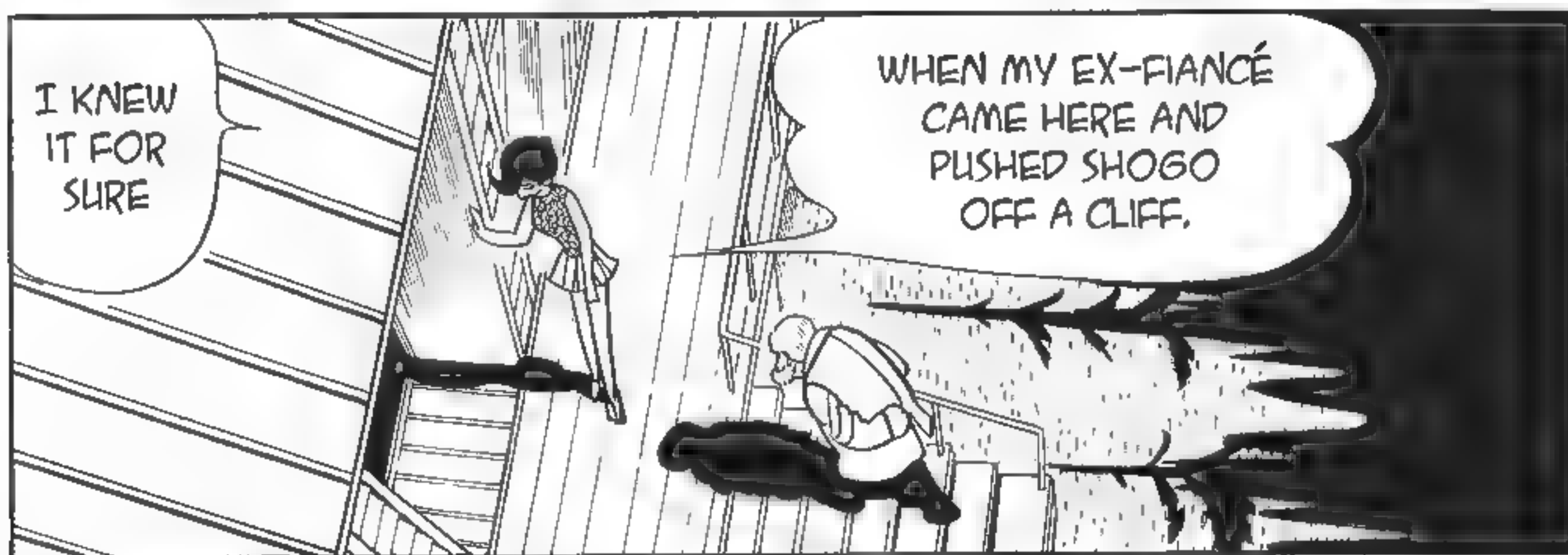
A SUICIDE PACT...
WHAT A JOKE!
WHAT DID THEY GAIN
BY DYING TOGETHER?
NOTHING BUT
DEFEAT!

WHY COULDN'T
SHE FIND THE WILL
TO LIVE AGAIN?!
STUPID!









YOU POOR
THING!
HOW
AWFUL!

YOU
MUSTN'T
DIE!

AH...

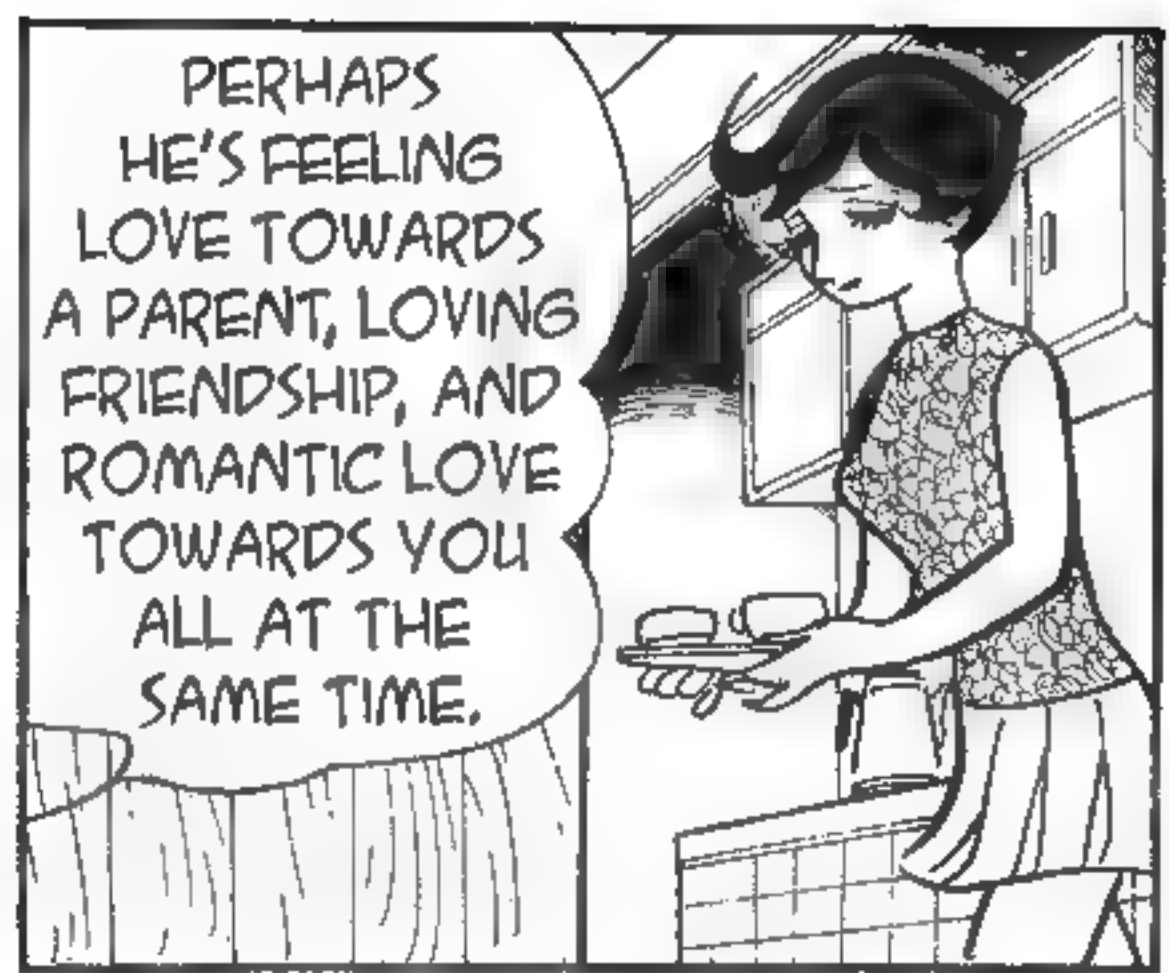
OH, THANK
GOODNESS!

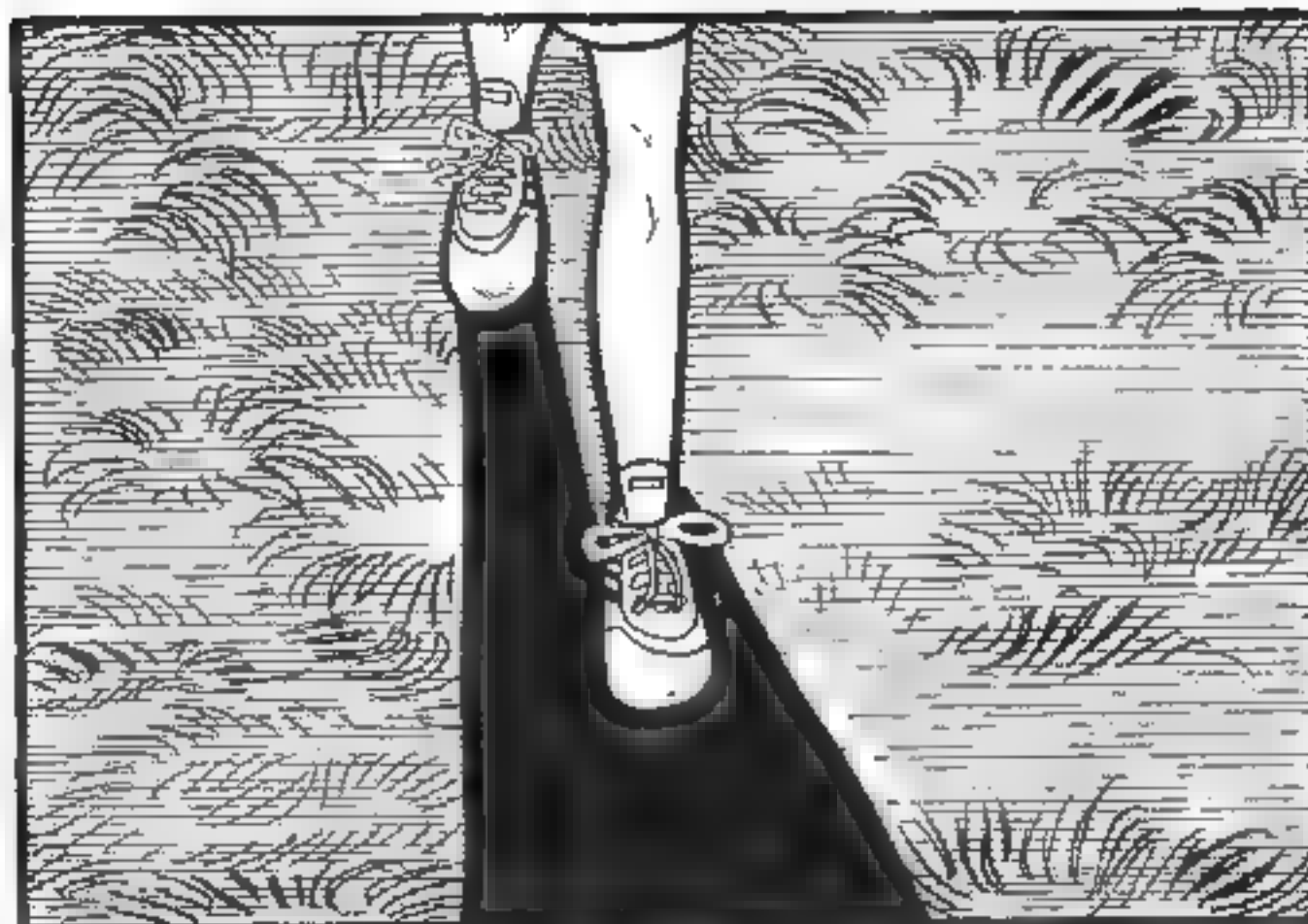
HEHEH... HIROMI,
I WON'T LET
ANYONE ELSE
HAVE YOU. EVEN IF IT
KILLS ME.

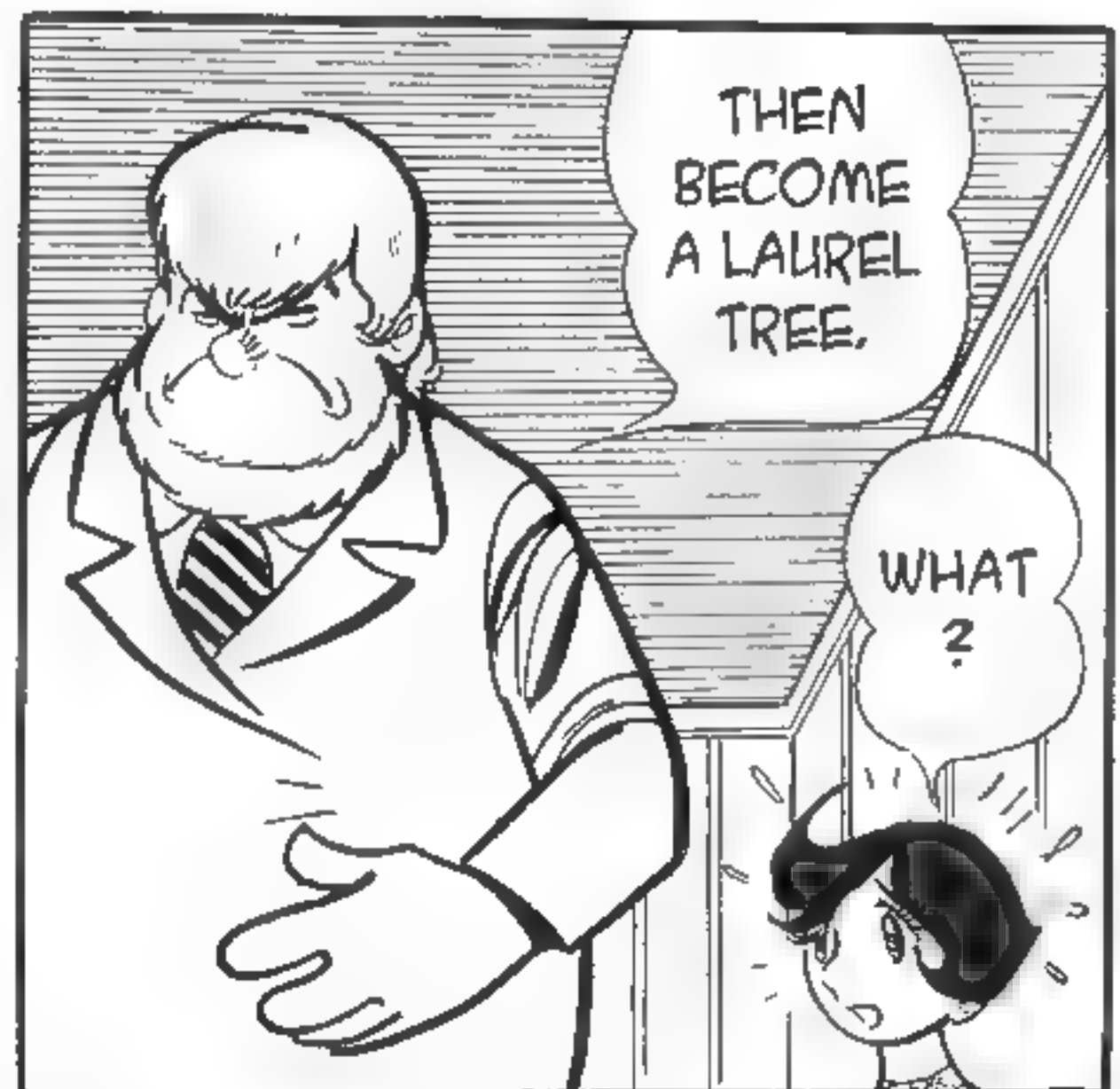
YOU
BELONG
ONLY
TO ME.

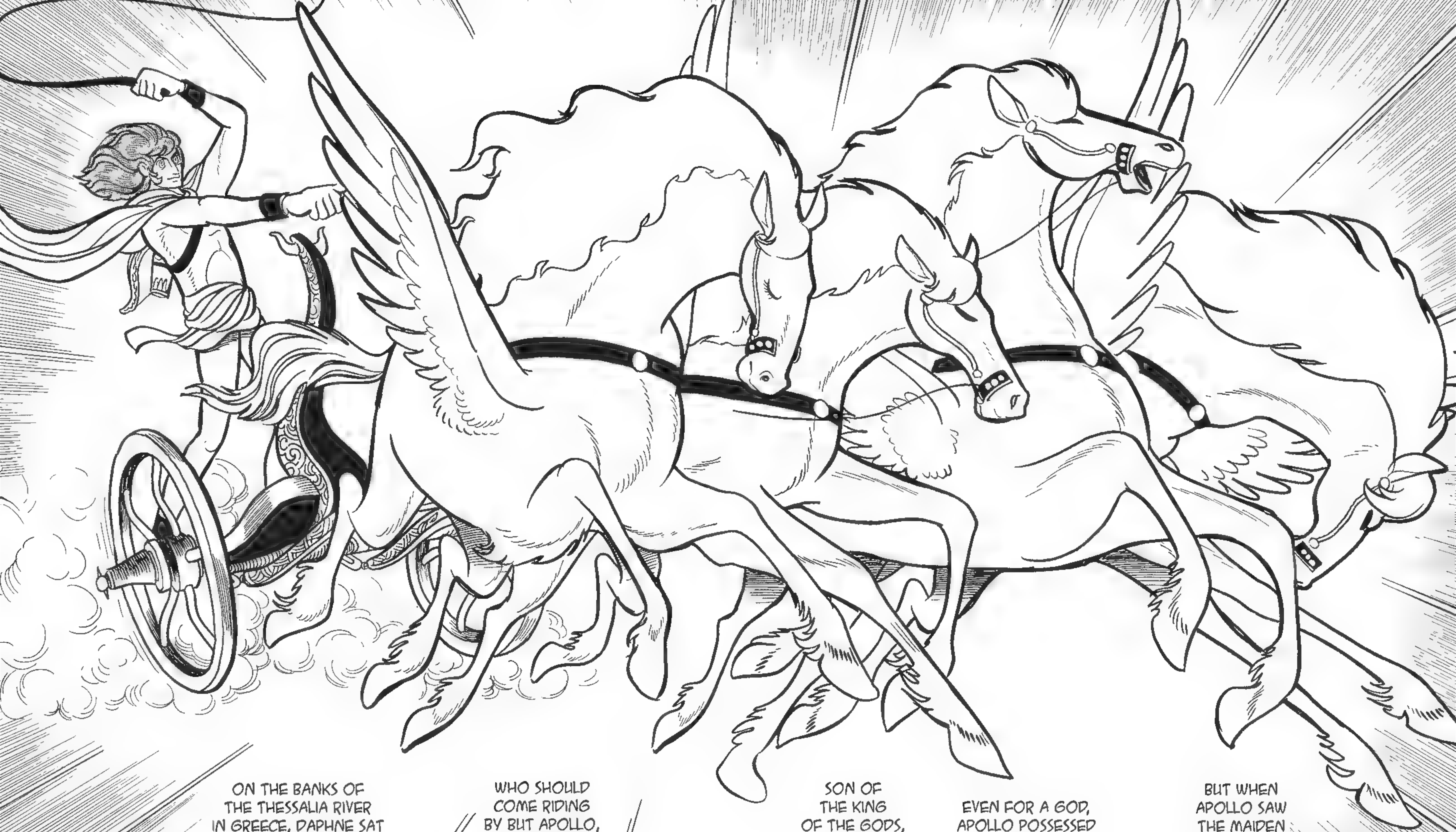
SHOGO
SAID
THAT?

YES. BUT I THOUGHT
HE MEANT IT THE WAY
A CHILD TRIES TO KEEP
HIS MOTHER OR SISTER
ALL TO HIMSELF.









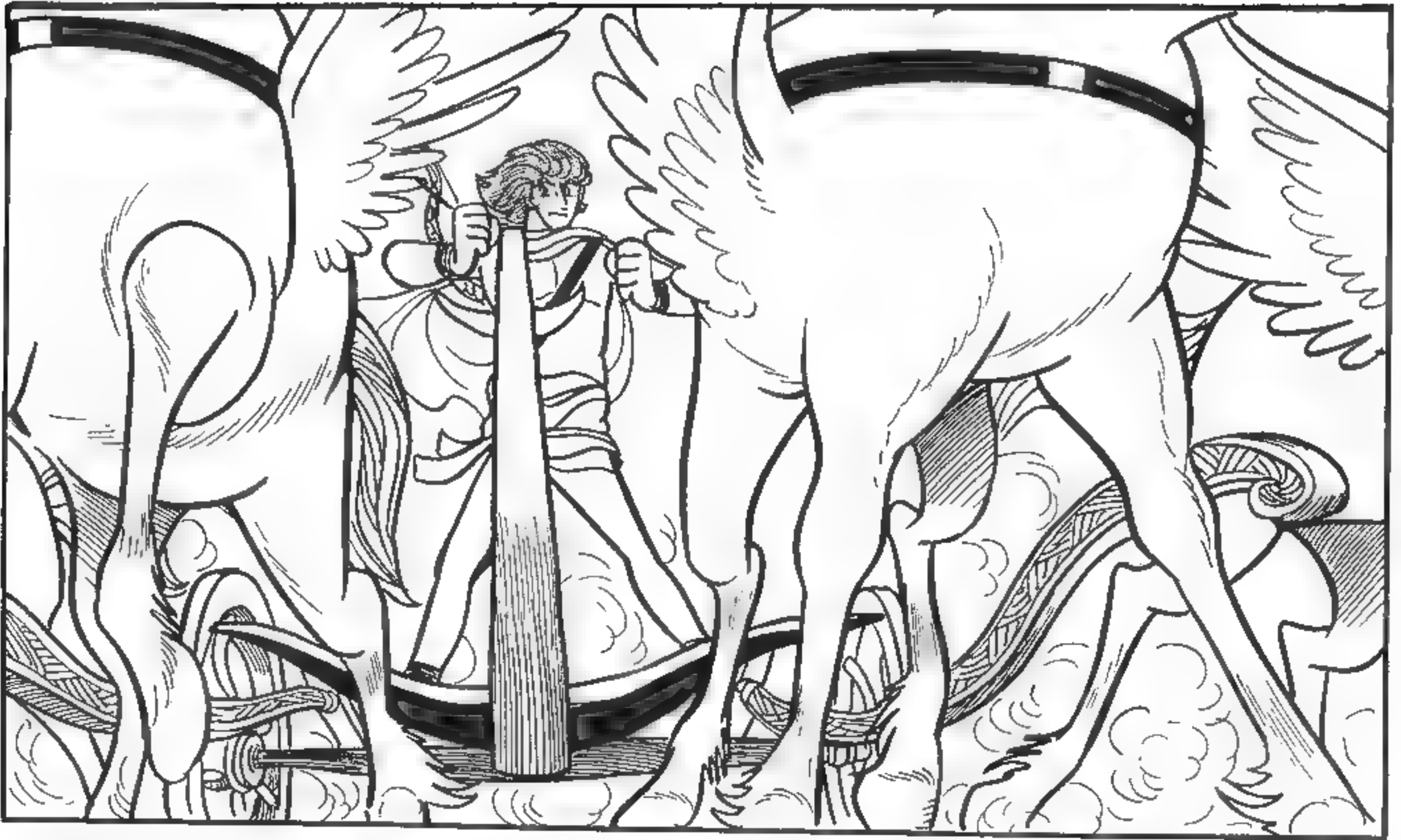
ON THE BANKS OF
THE THESSALIA RIVER
IN GREECE, DAPHNE SAT
RUNNING HER FINGERS
THROUGH HER HAIR.
SHE WAS THE LOVELIEST
MAIDEN IN THE WORLD.

WHO SHOULD
COME RIDING
BY BUT APOLLO,
TRAVERSING
THE HEAVENS
ASTRIDE
THE STEEDS
OF THE SUN.

SON OF
THE KING
OF THE GODS,
JUPITER,
APOLLO WAS
THE GOD
OF CULTURE
AND OF
MEDICINE.

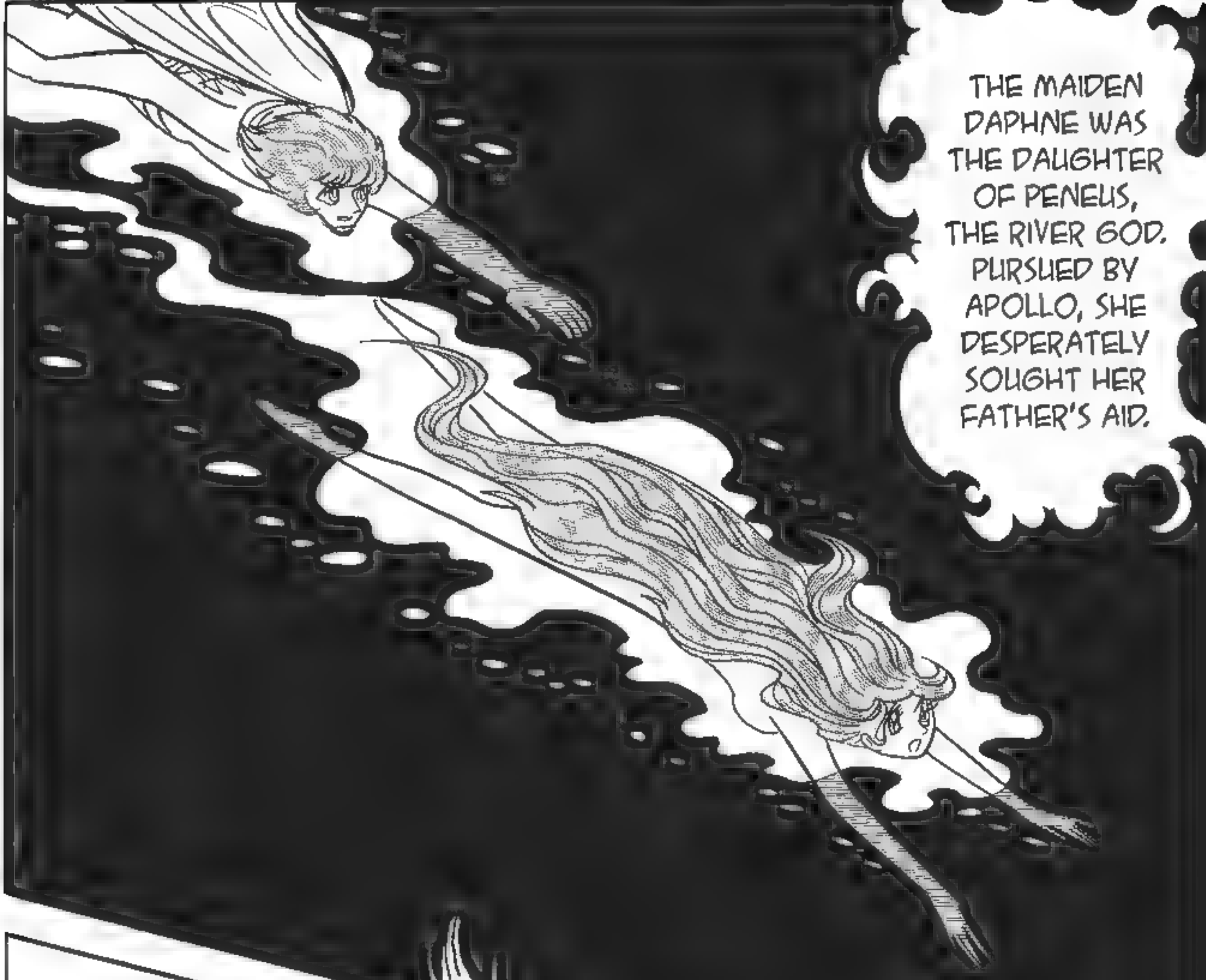
EVEN FOR A GOD,
APOLLO POSSESSED
GREAT BEAUTY,
MANLINESS,
AND MAJESTY.
MANY A YOUTH
AND MAIDEN
BECAME SLAVES
TO HIS CHARM.

BUT WHEN
APOLLO SAW
THE MAIDEN
DAPHNE,
HIS HEART
KNEW LOVE
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME.









THE MAIDEN
DAPHNE WAS
THE DAUGHTER
OF PENEUS,
THE RIVER GOD.
PURSUED BY
APOLLO, SHE
DESPERATELY
SOUGHT HER
FATHER'S AID.



FATHER,
FATHER!
SAVE ME!
HIDE ME!

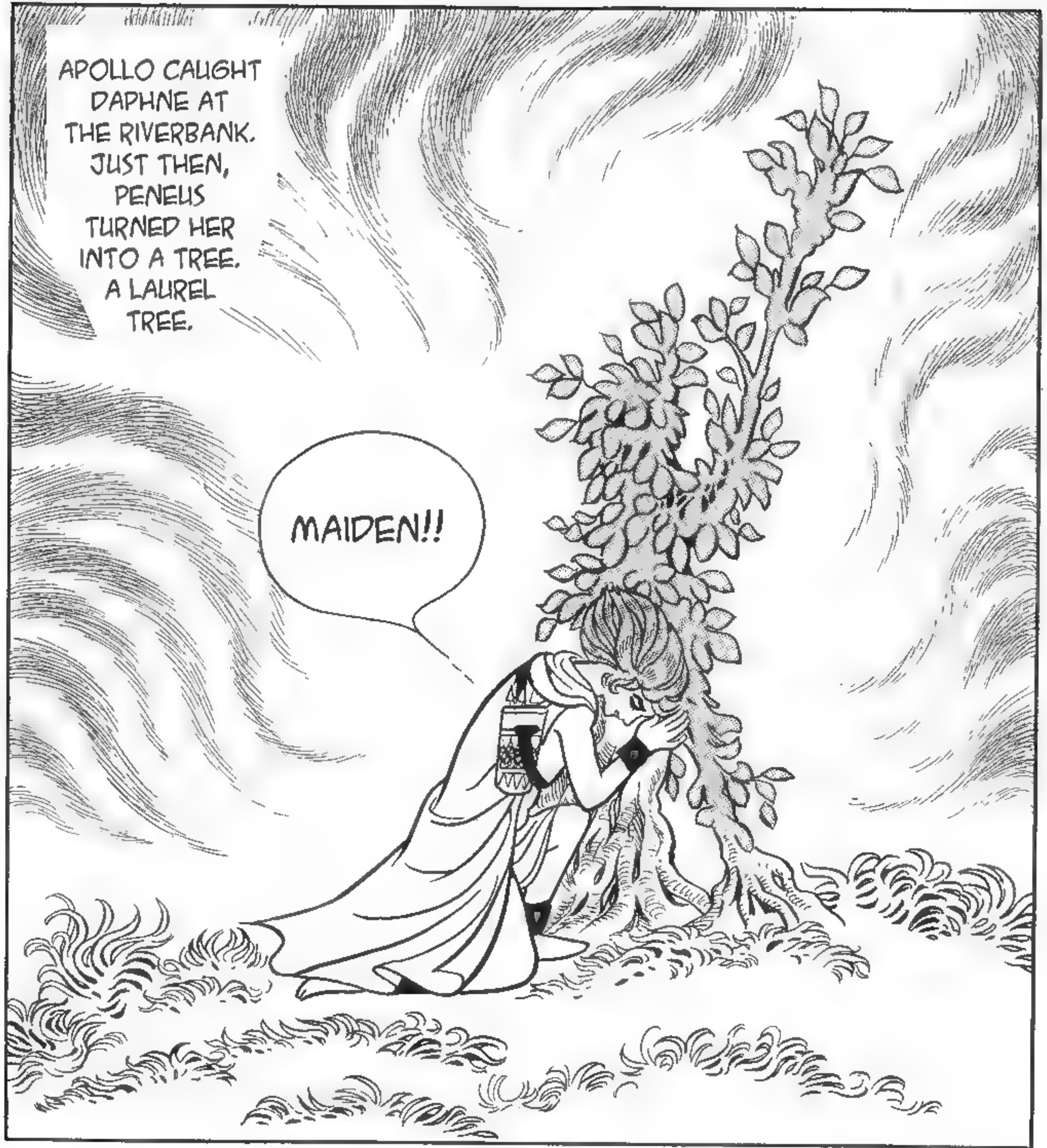


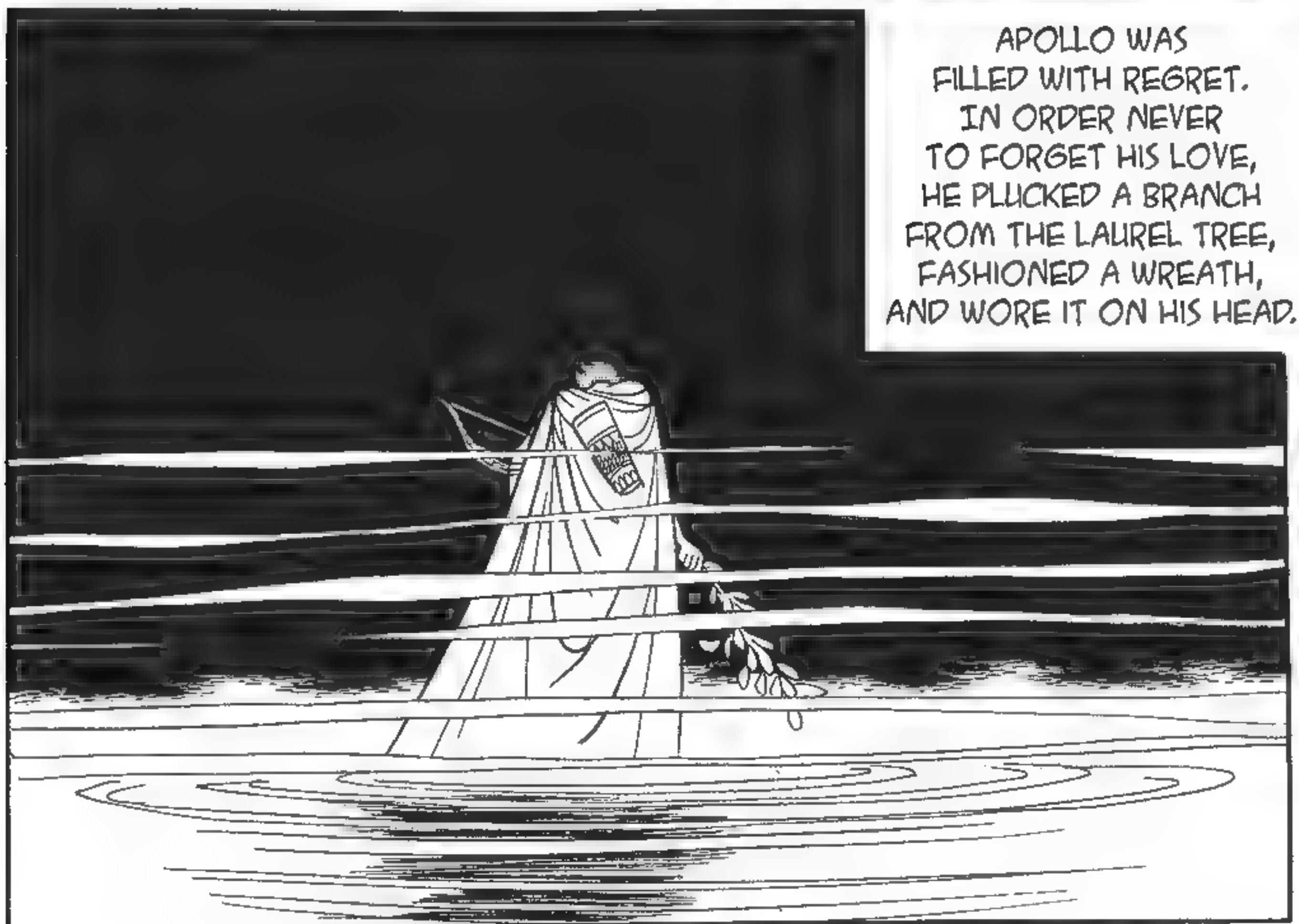
GOT
YOU!



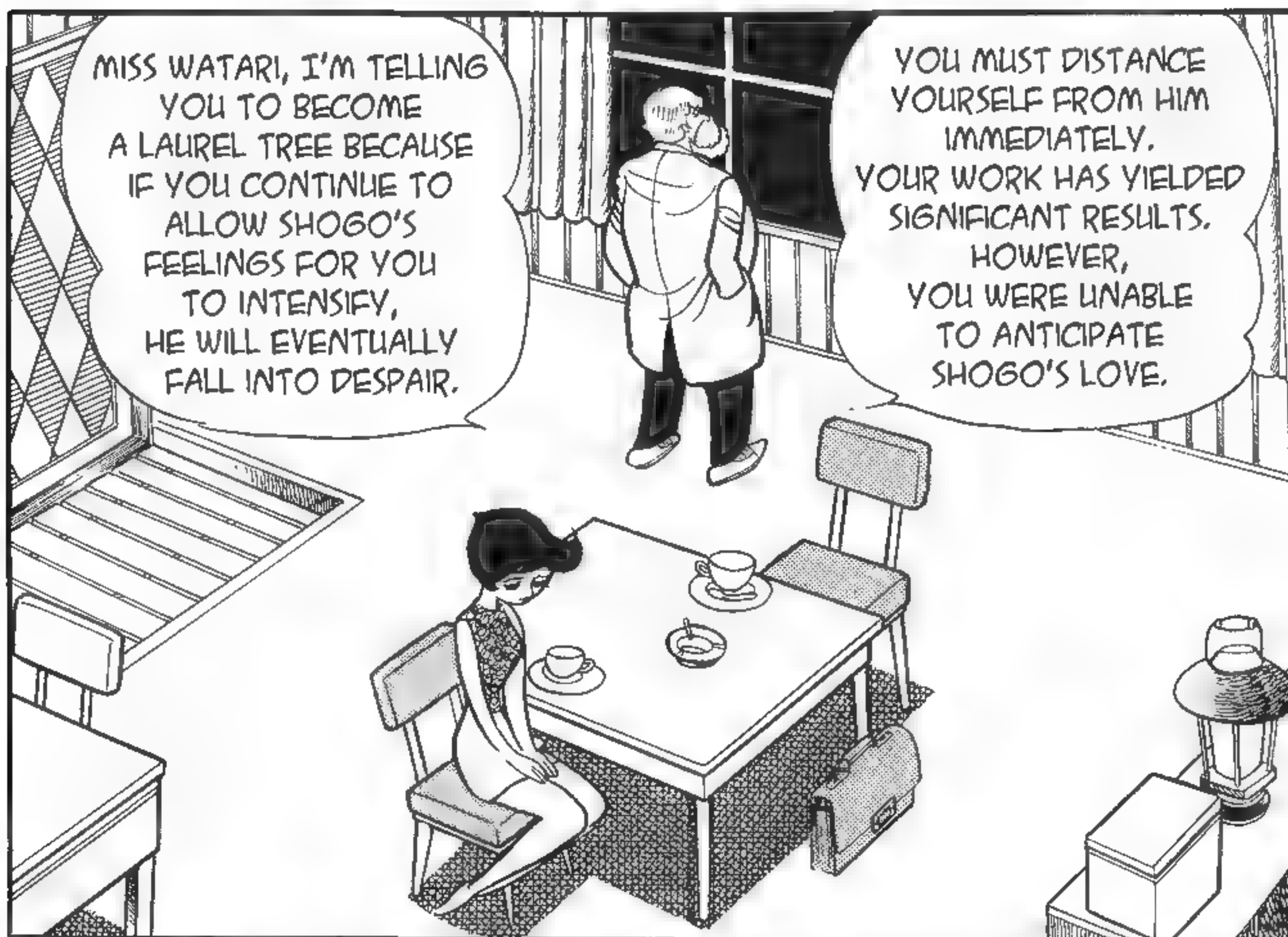
APOLLO CAUGHT
DAPHNE AT
THE RIVERBANK.
JUST THEN,
PENEUS
TURNED HER
INTO A TREE.
A LAUREL
TREE.

MAIDEN!!





EVER SINCE, THEY TELL,
THE LAUREL WREATH
SERVED AS A SYMBOL
OF GLORY FOR
GREEKS AND ROMANS
AND WAS WORN BY
HONORED MEN.



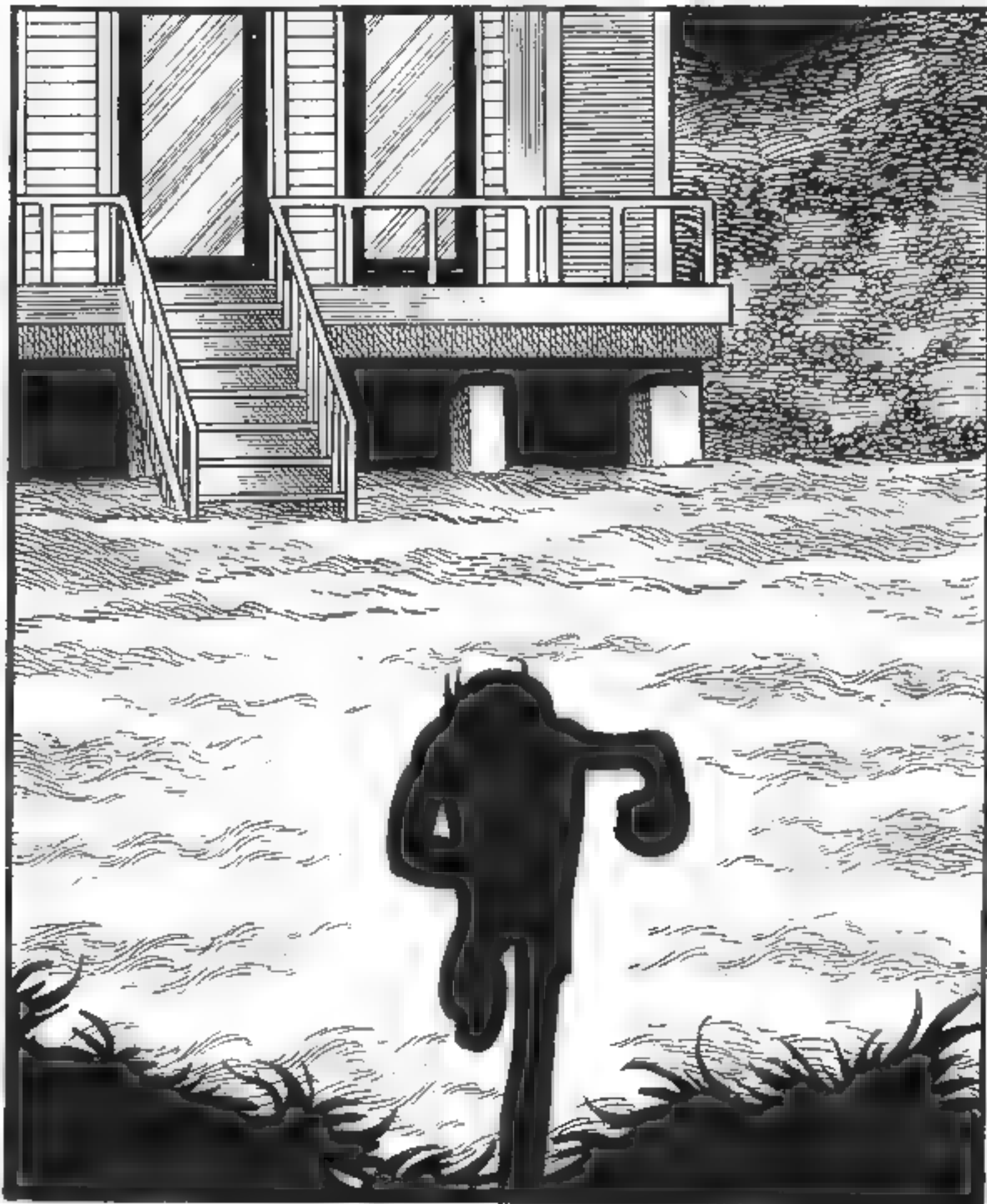
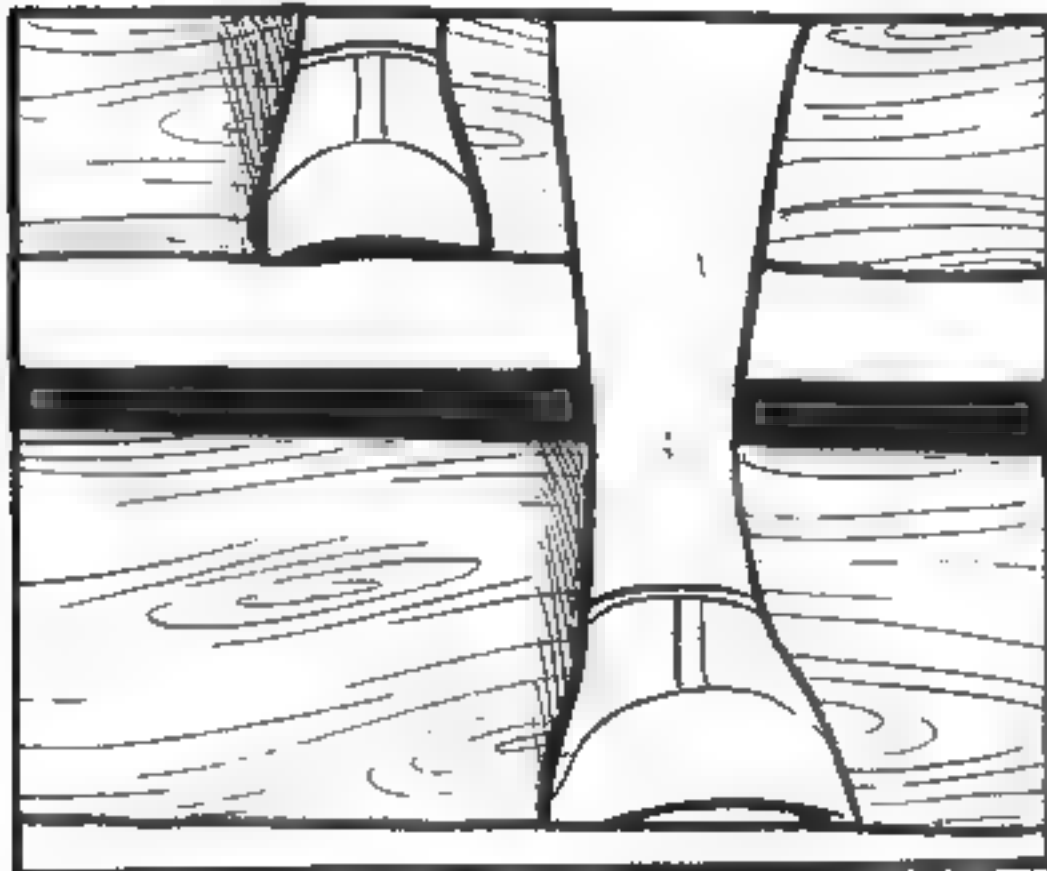


AND LIKE THE LAUREL CROWN APOLLO ALWAYS WORE...

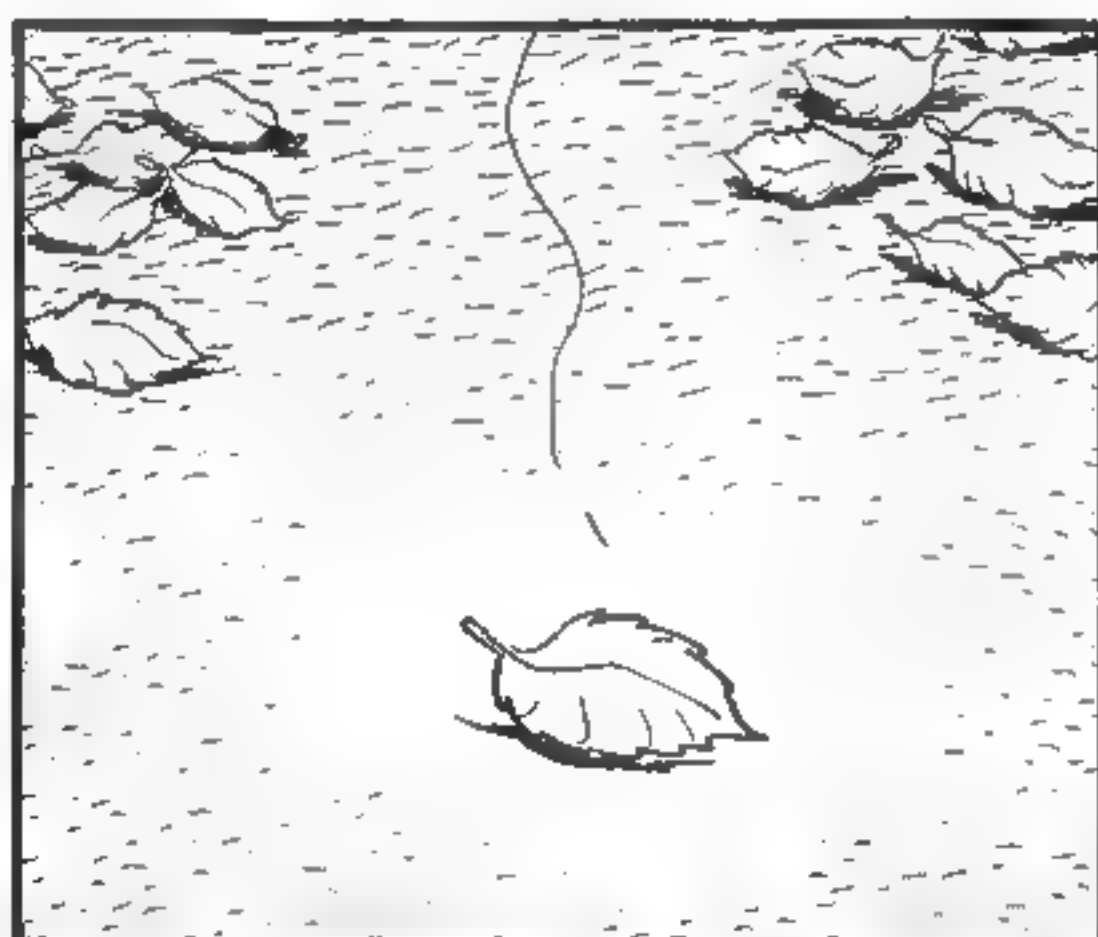
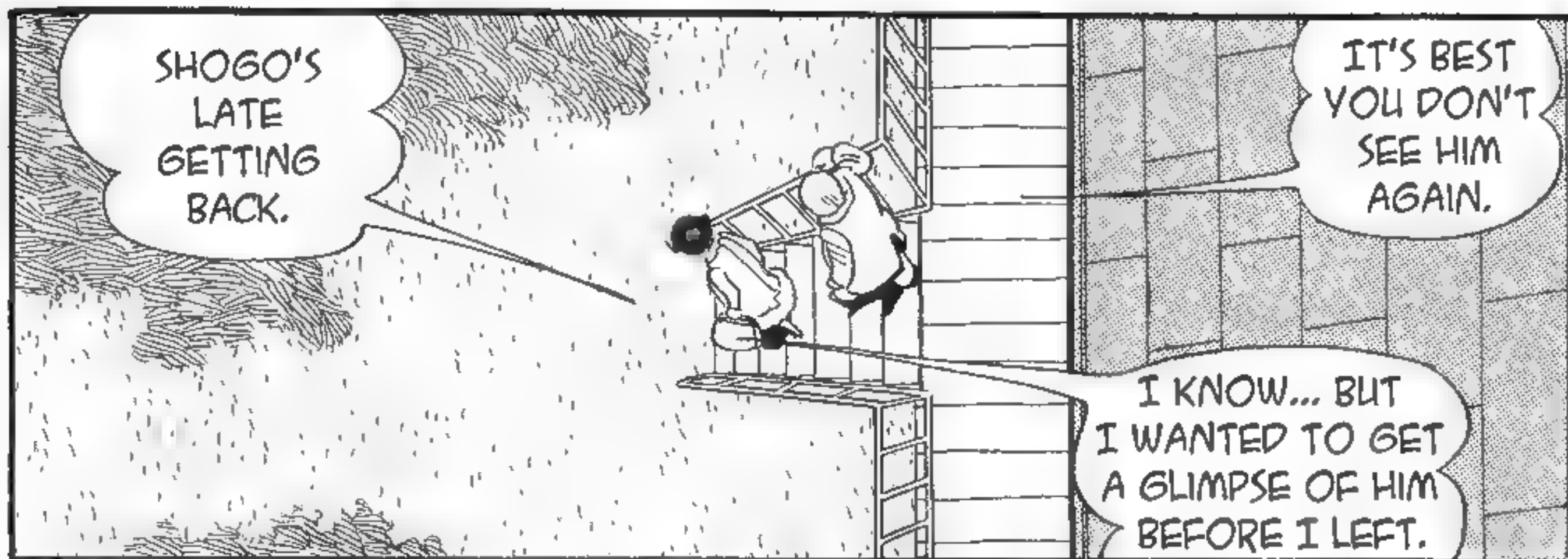


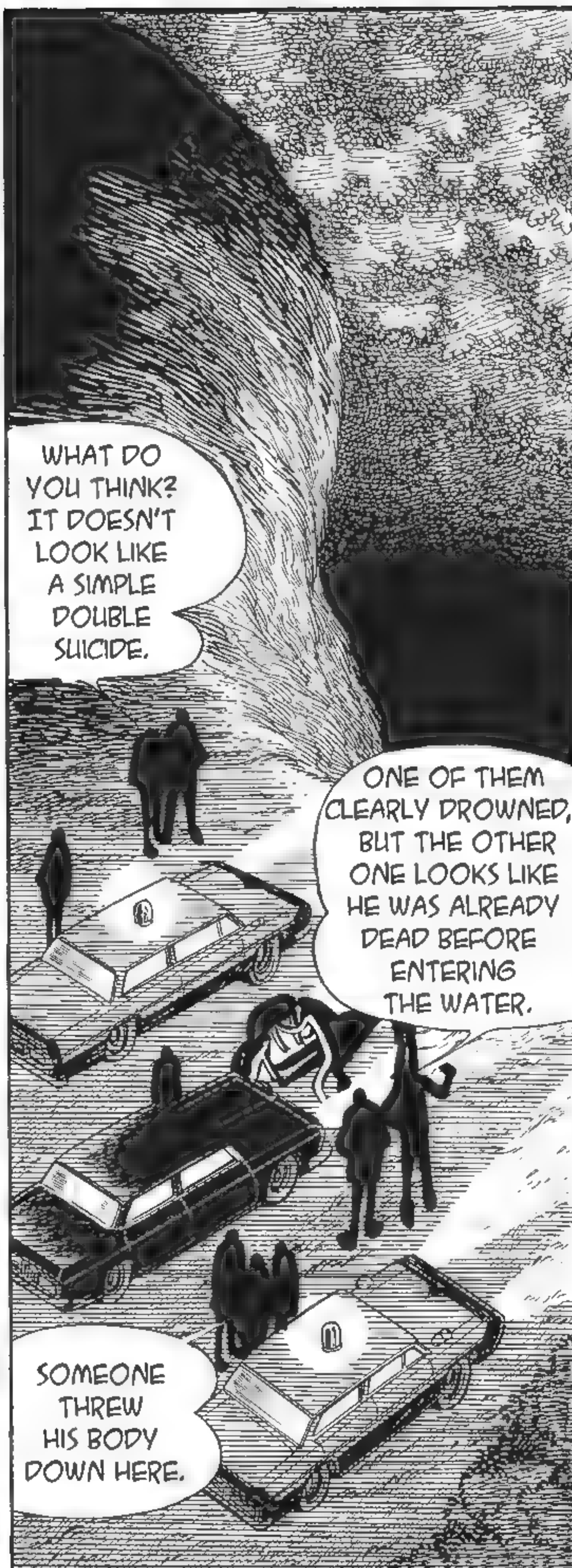
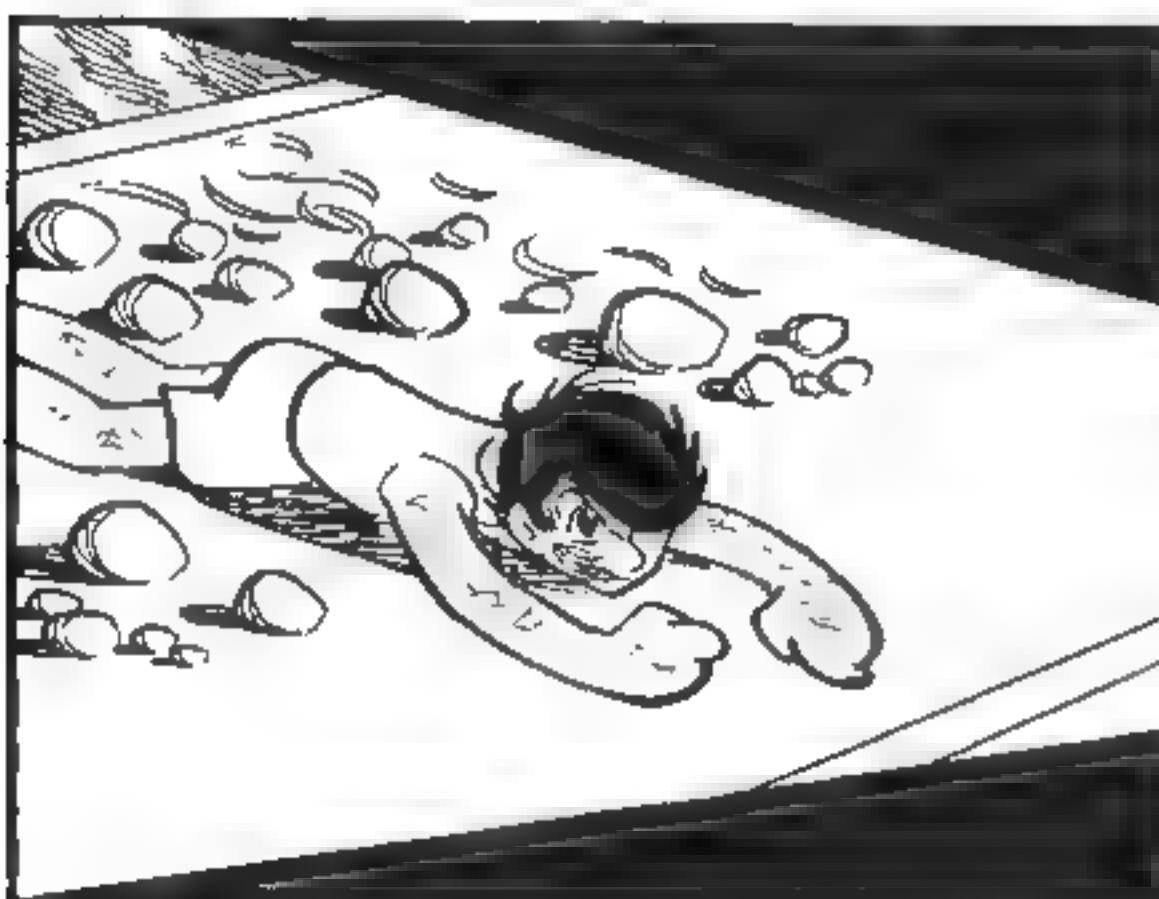
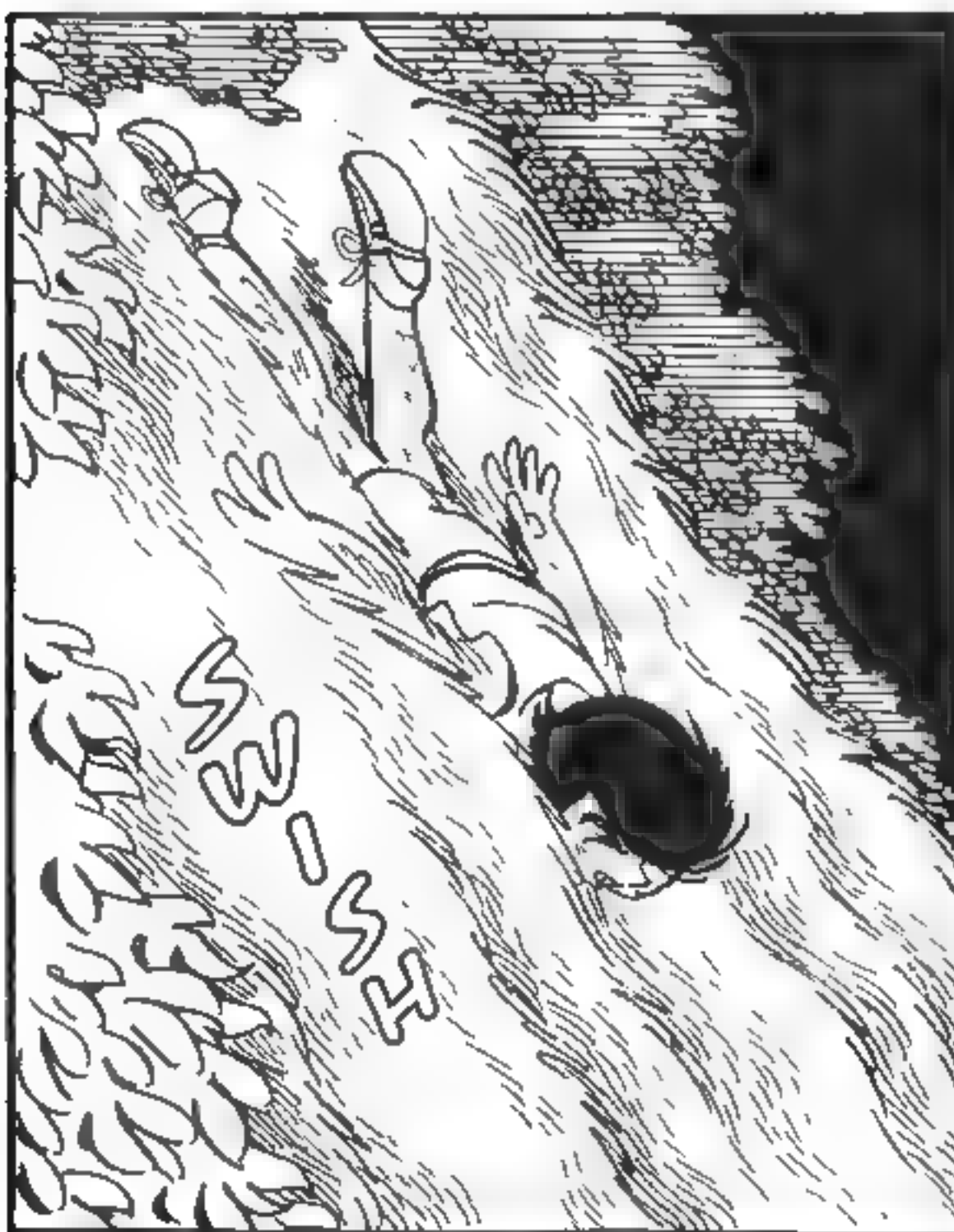
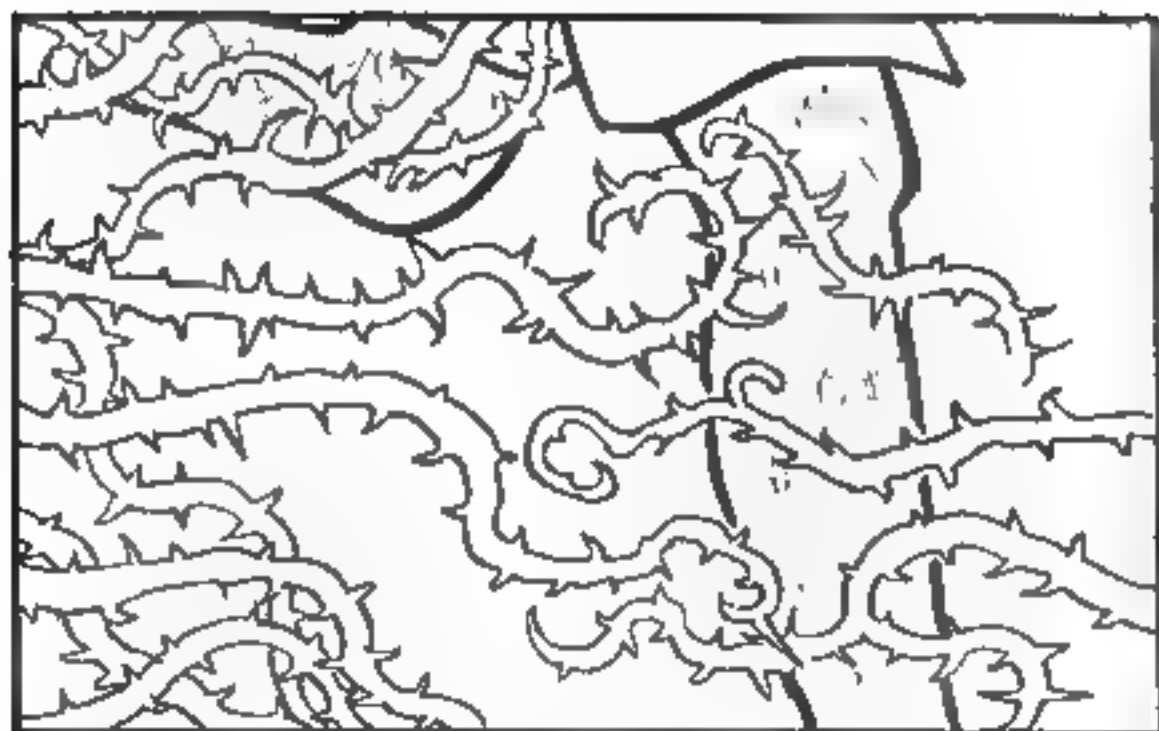
YES. I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST.

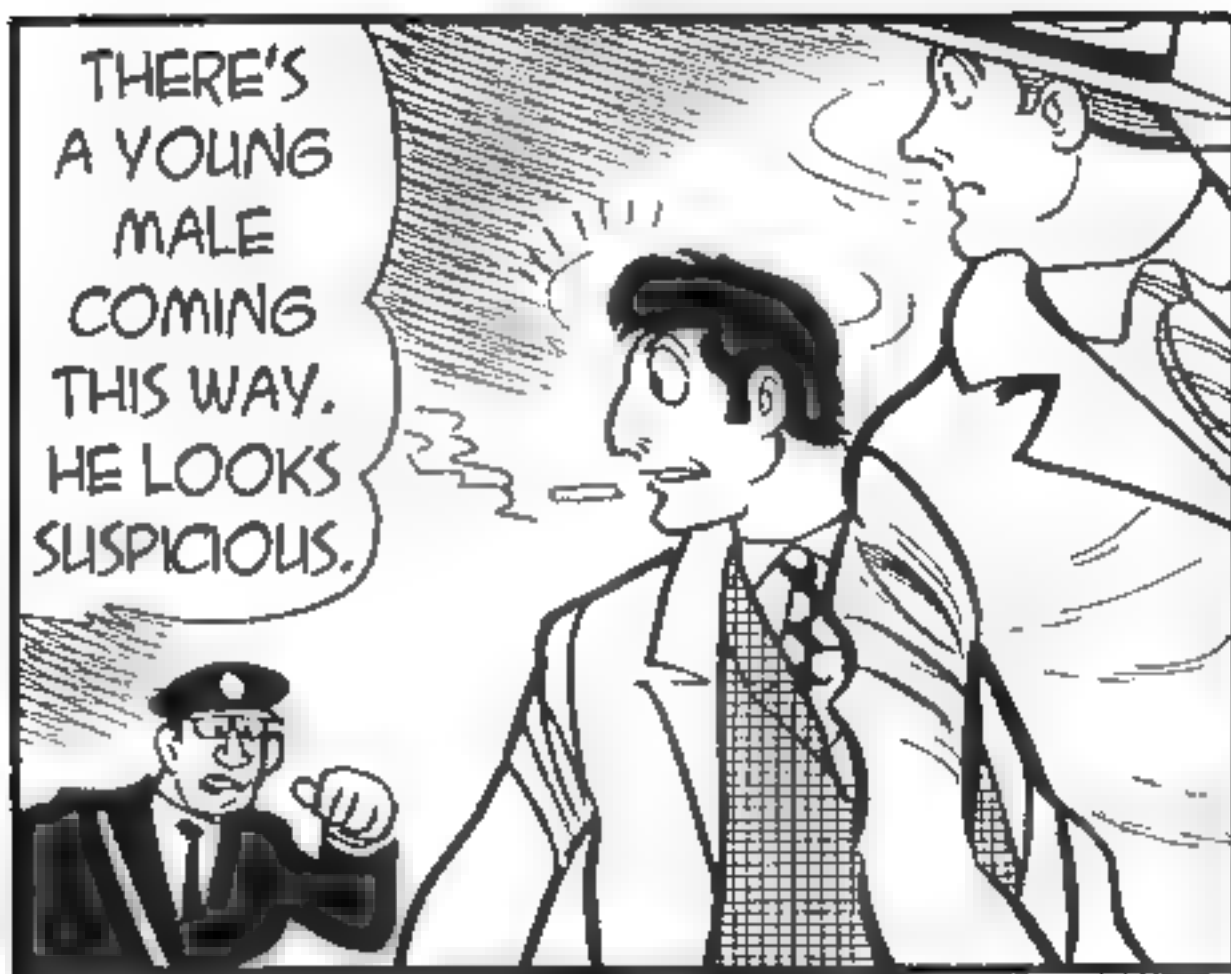


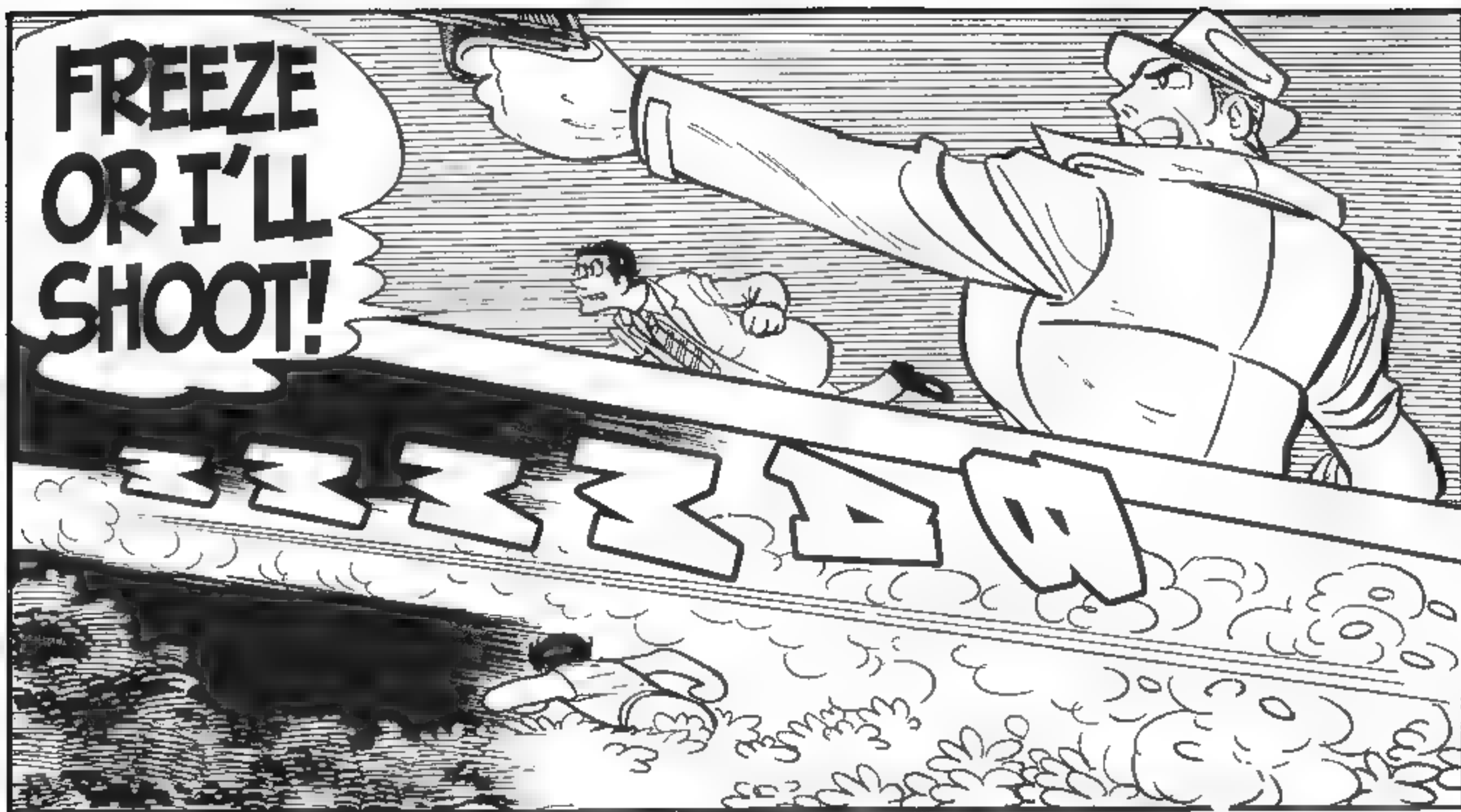


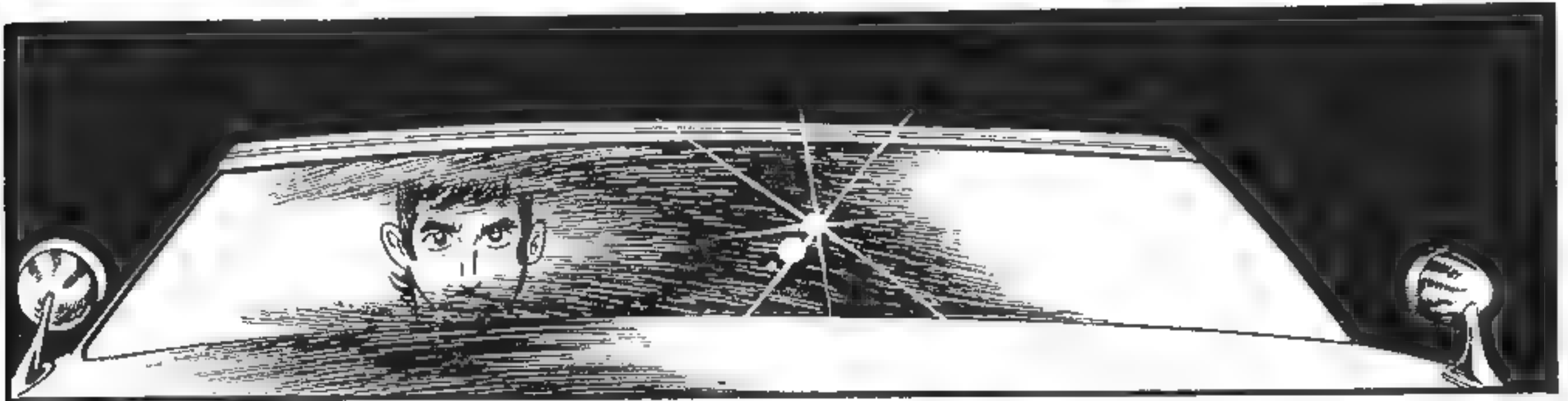
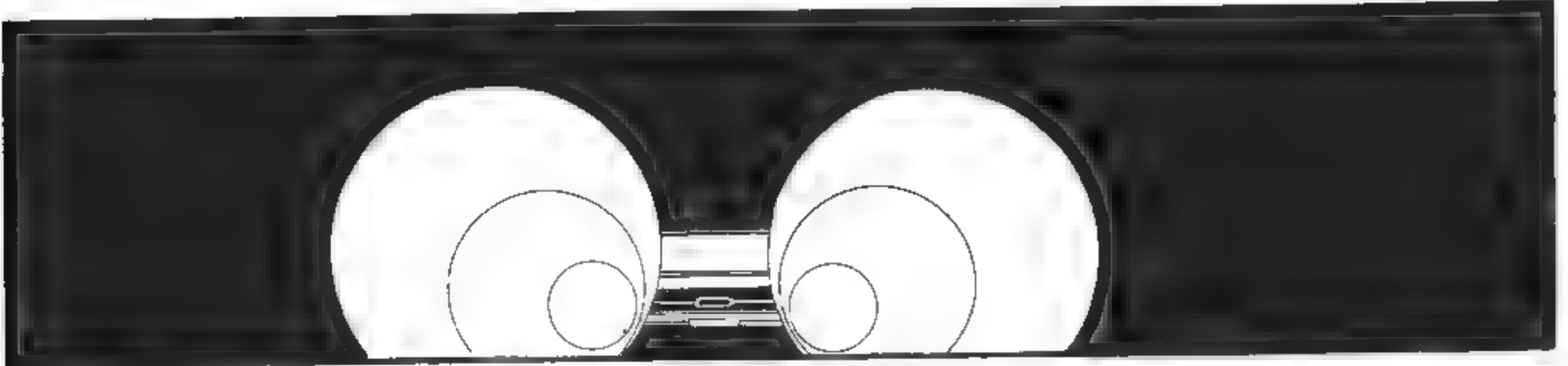
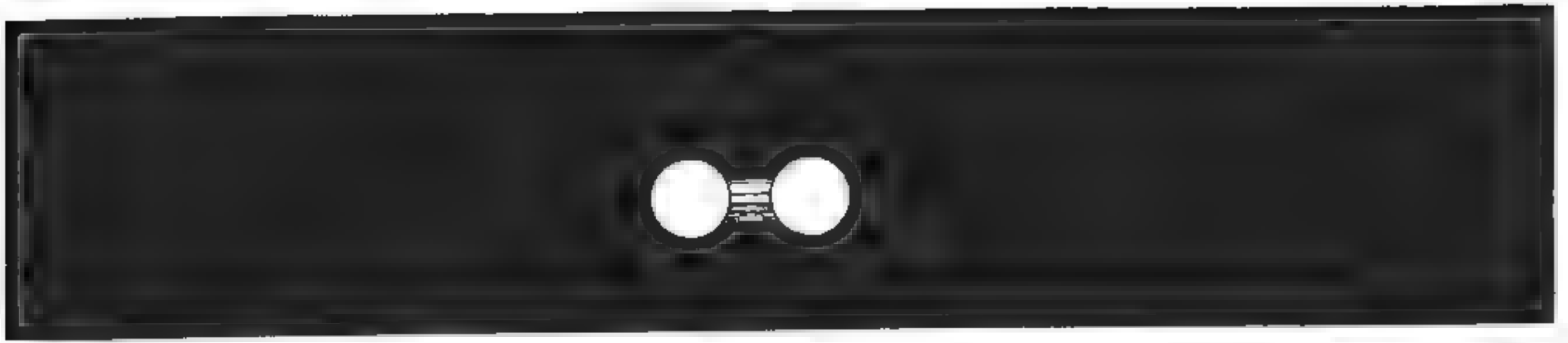


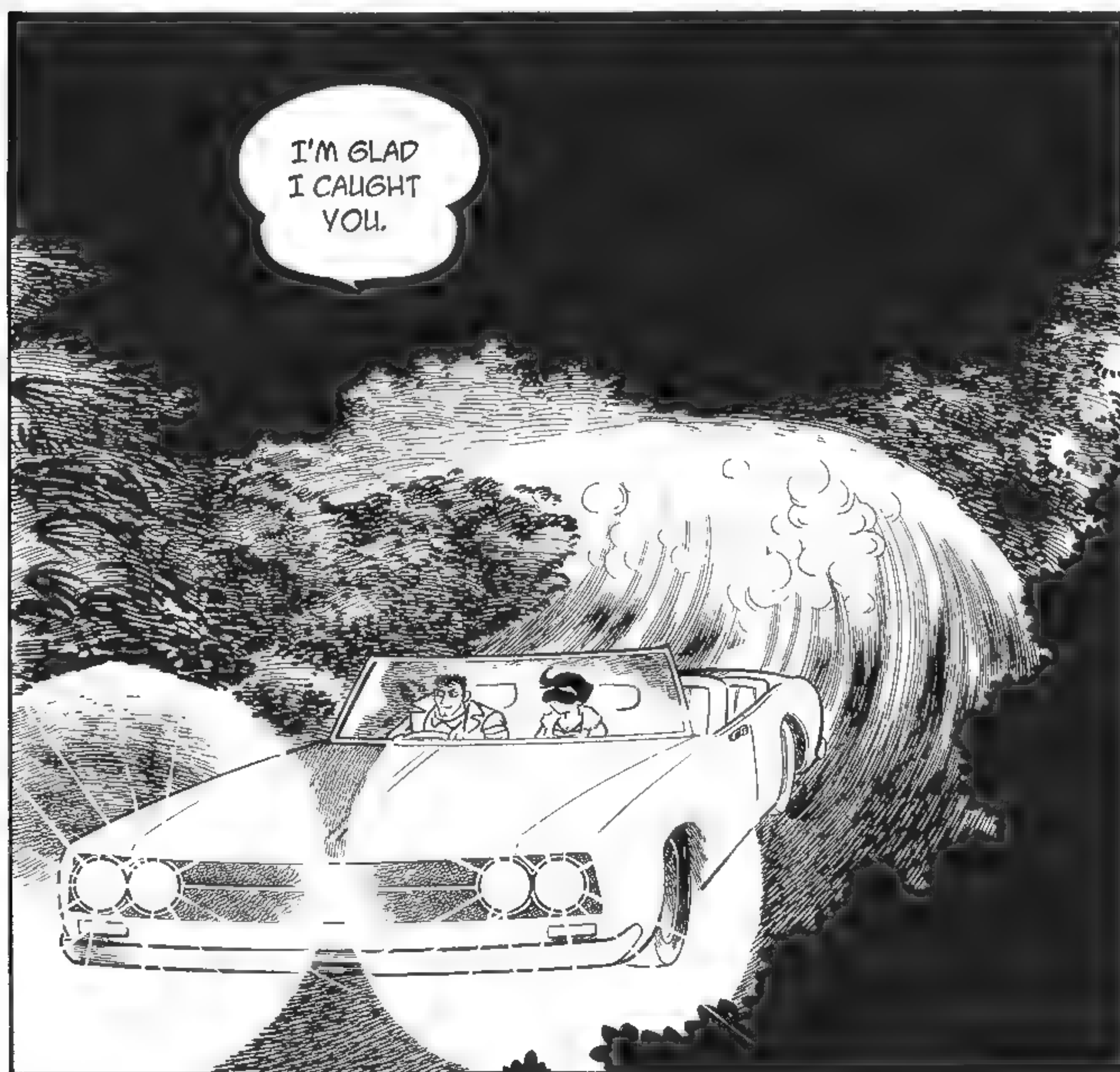
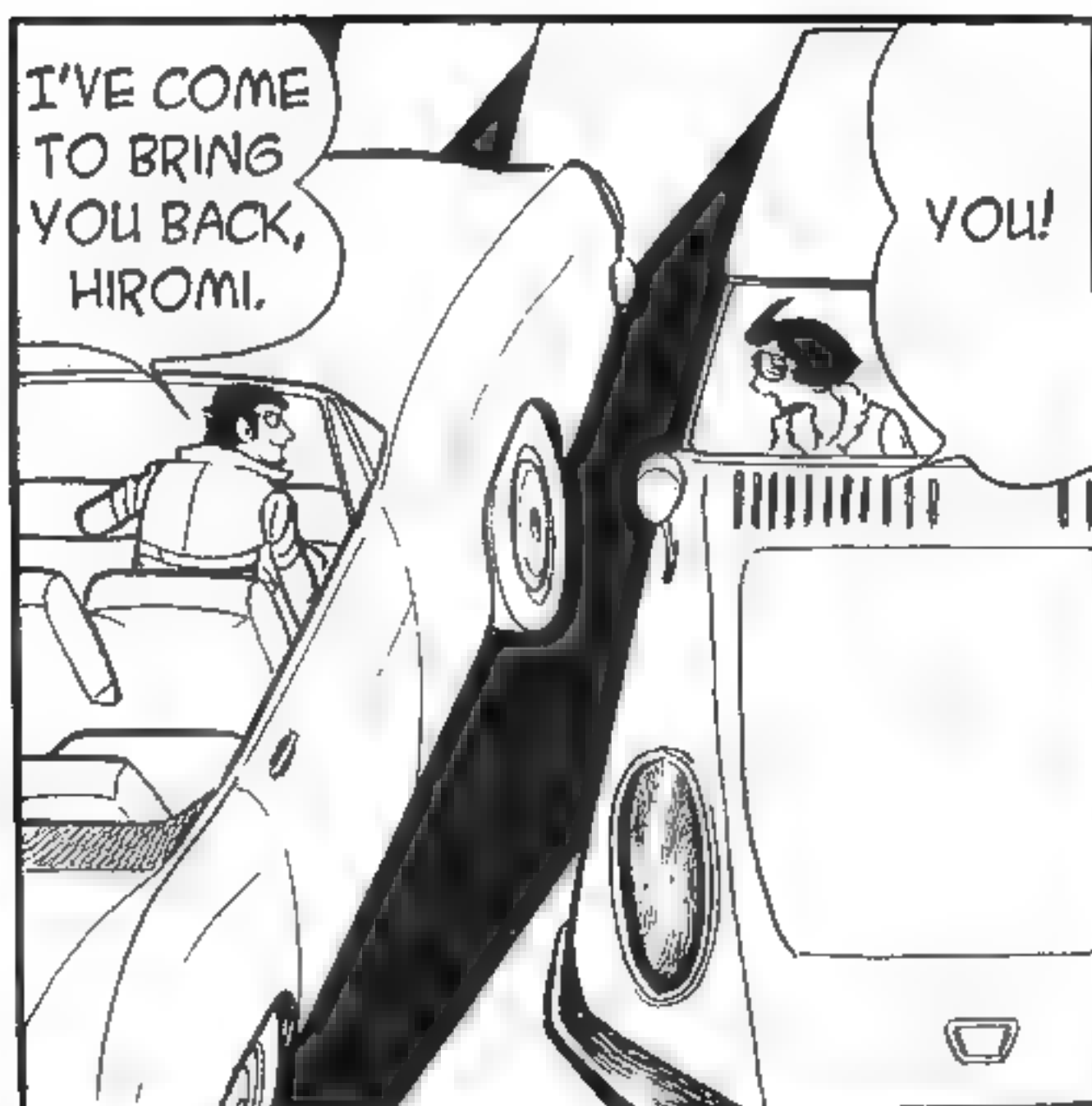


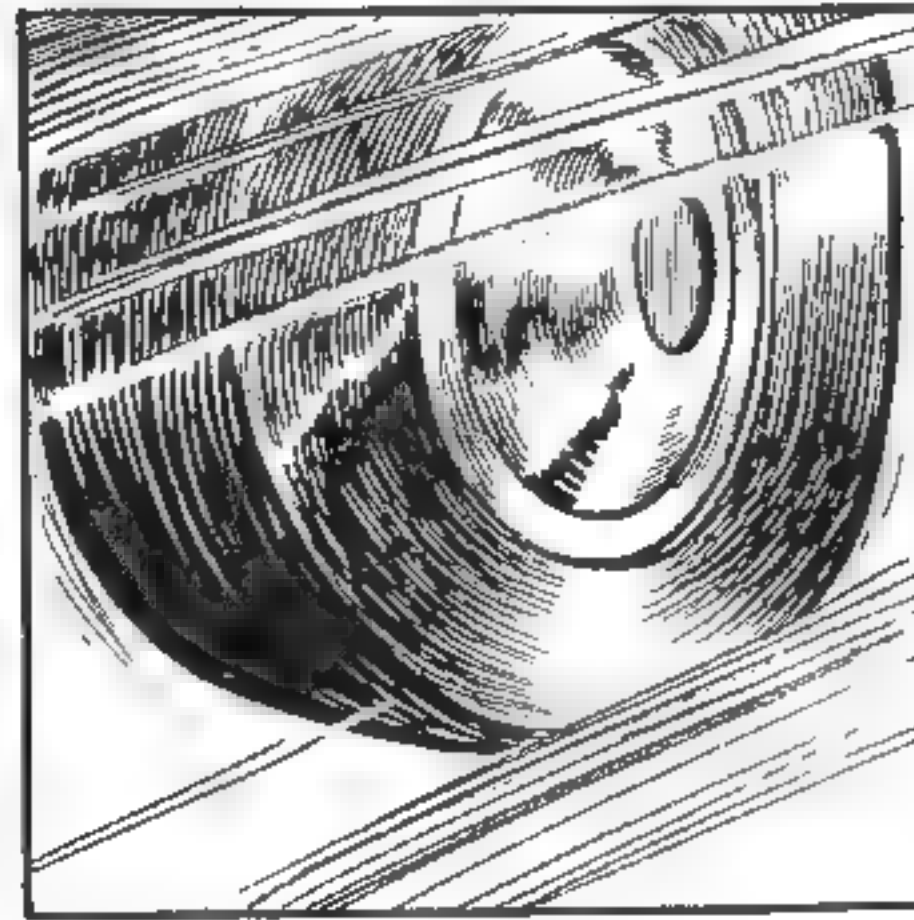
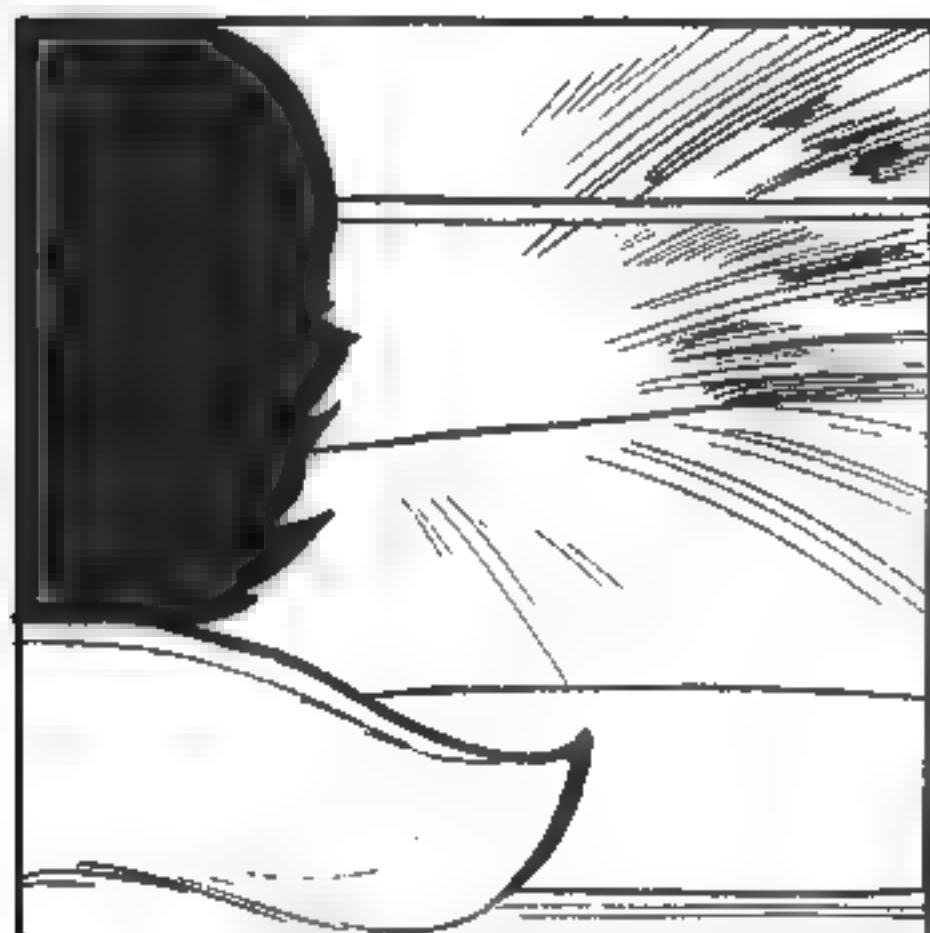


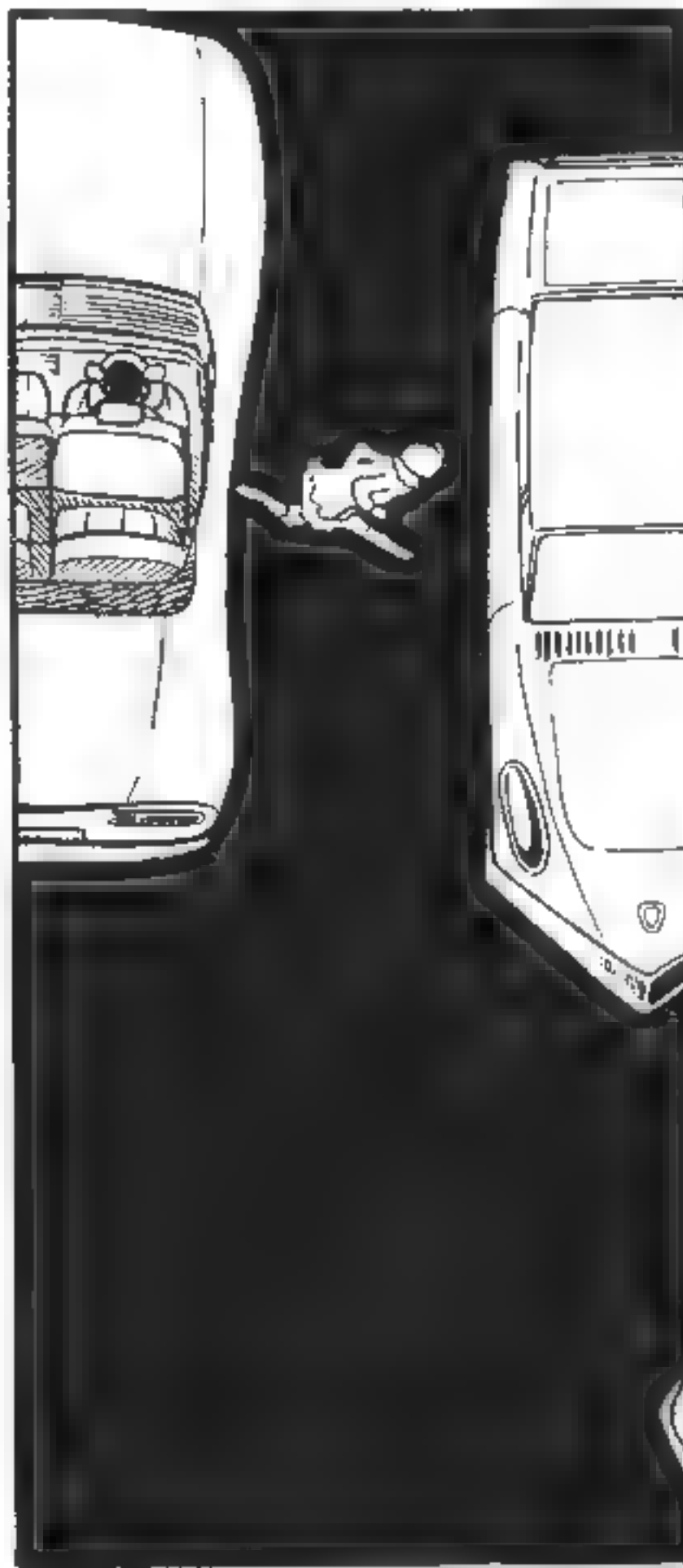
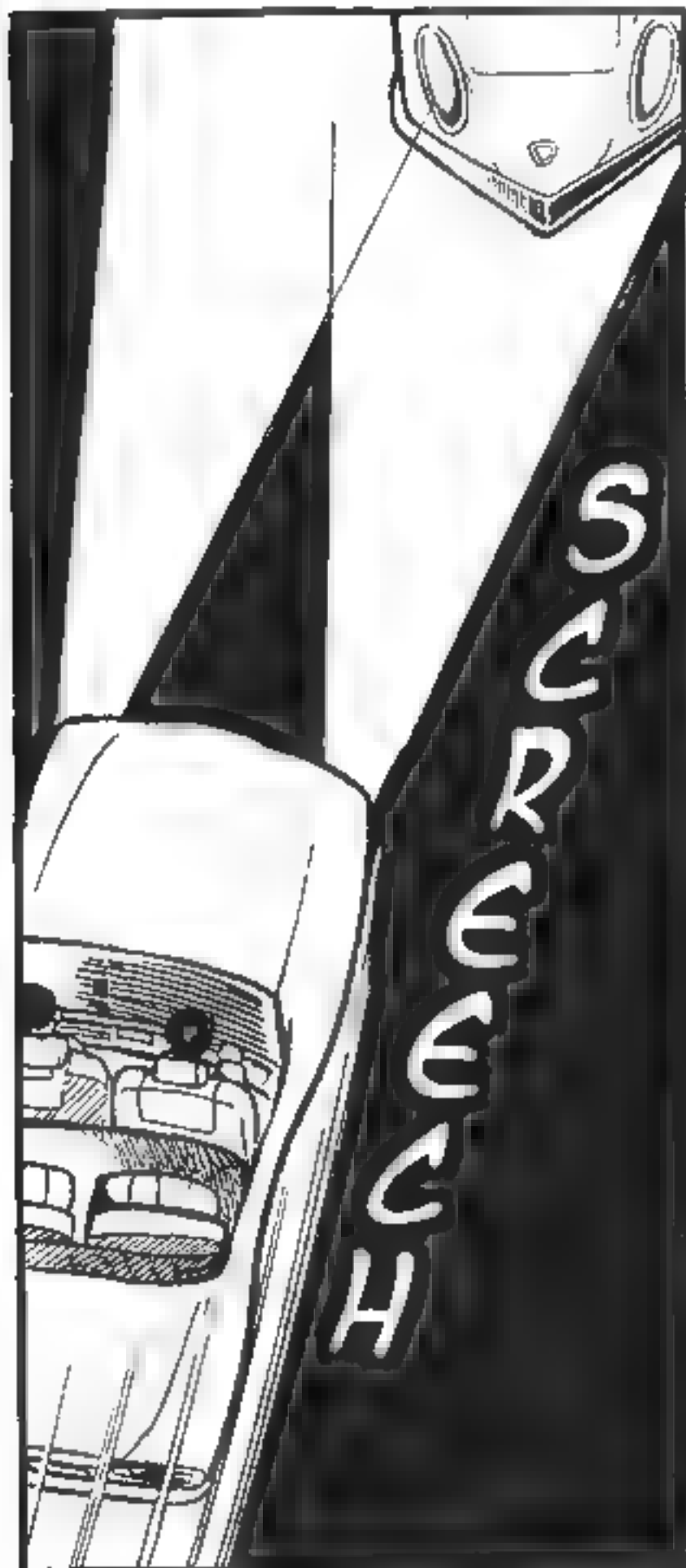
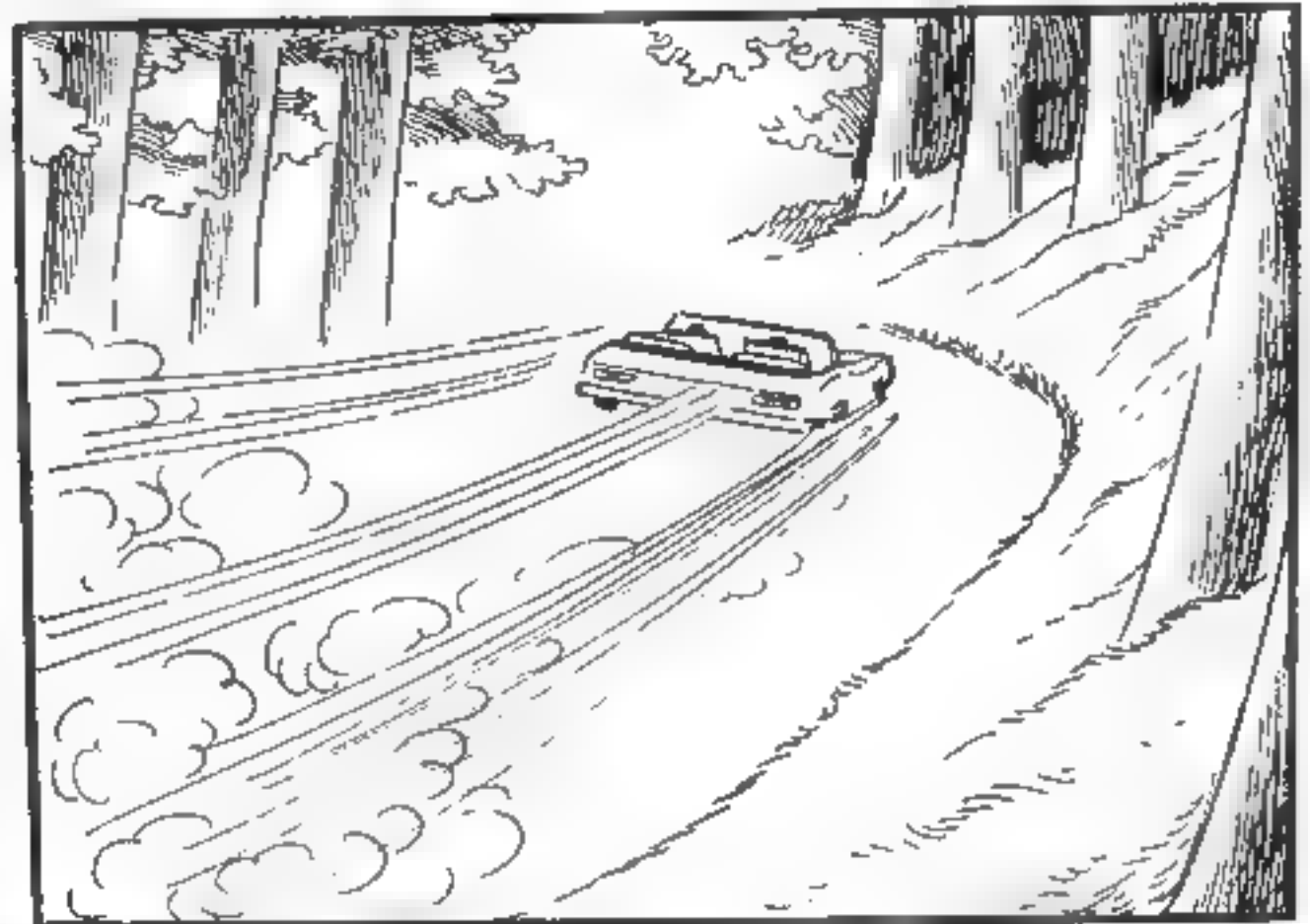
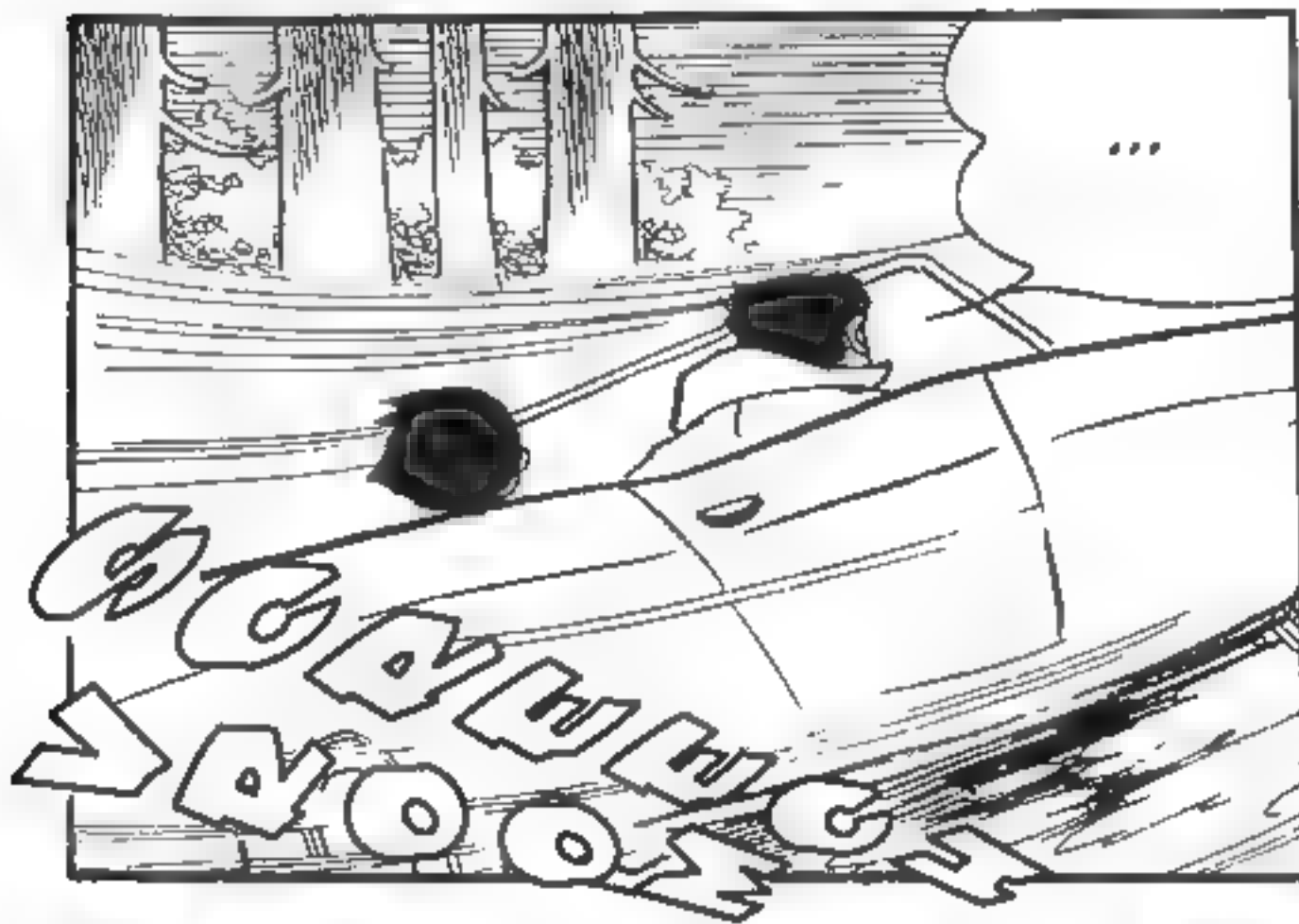


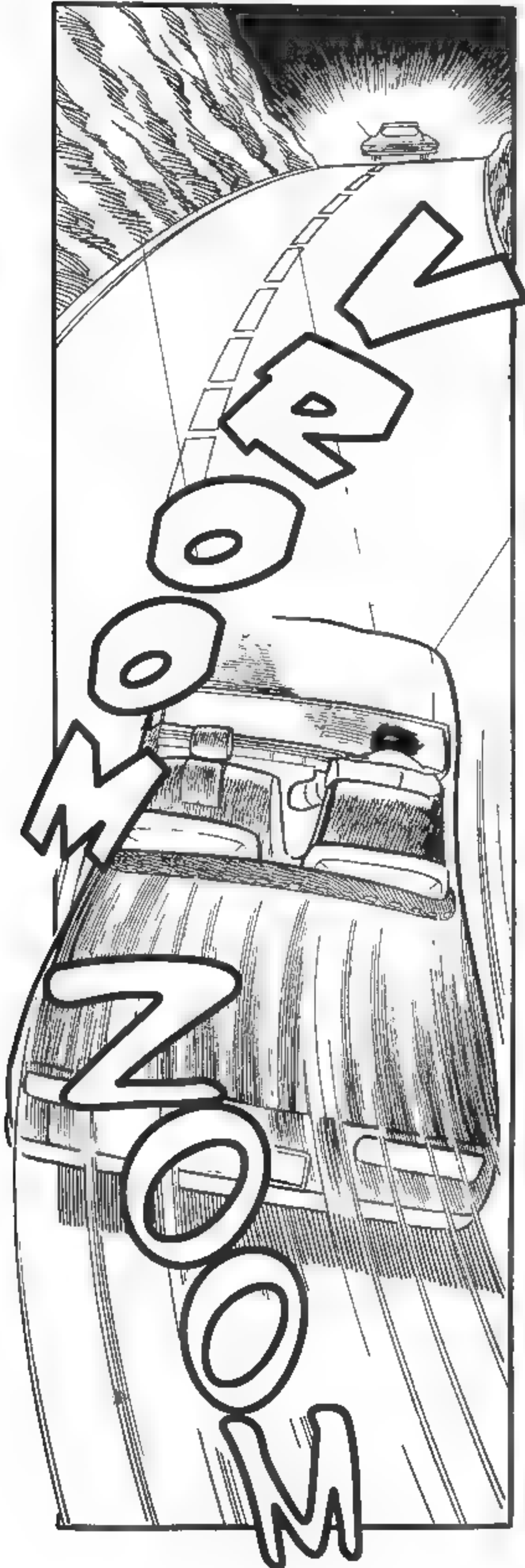




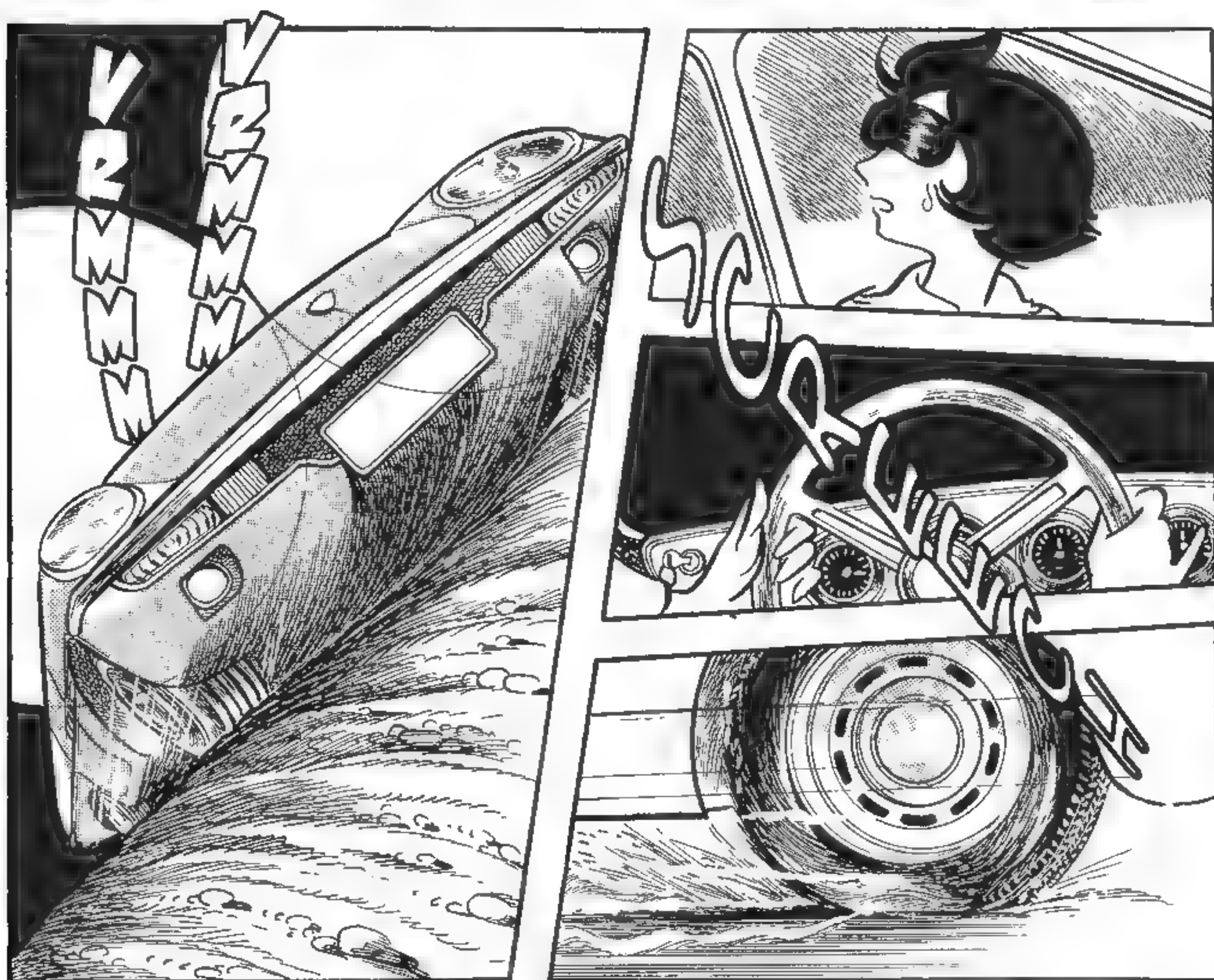
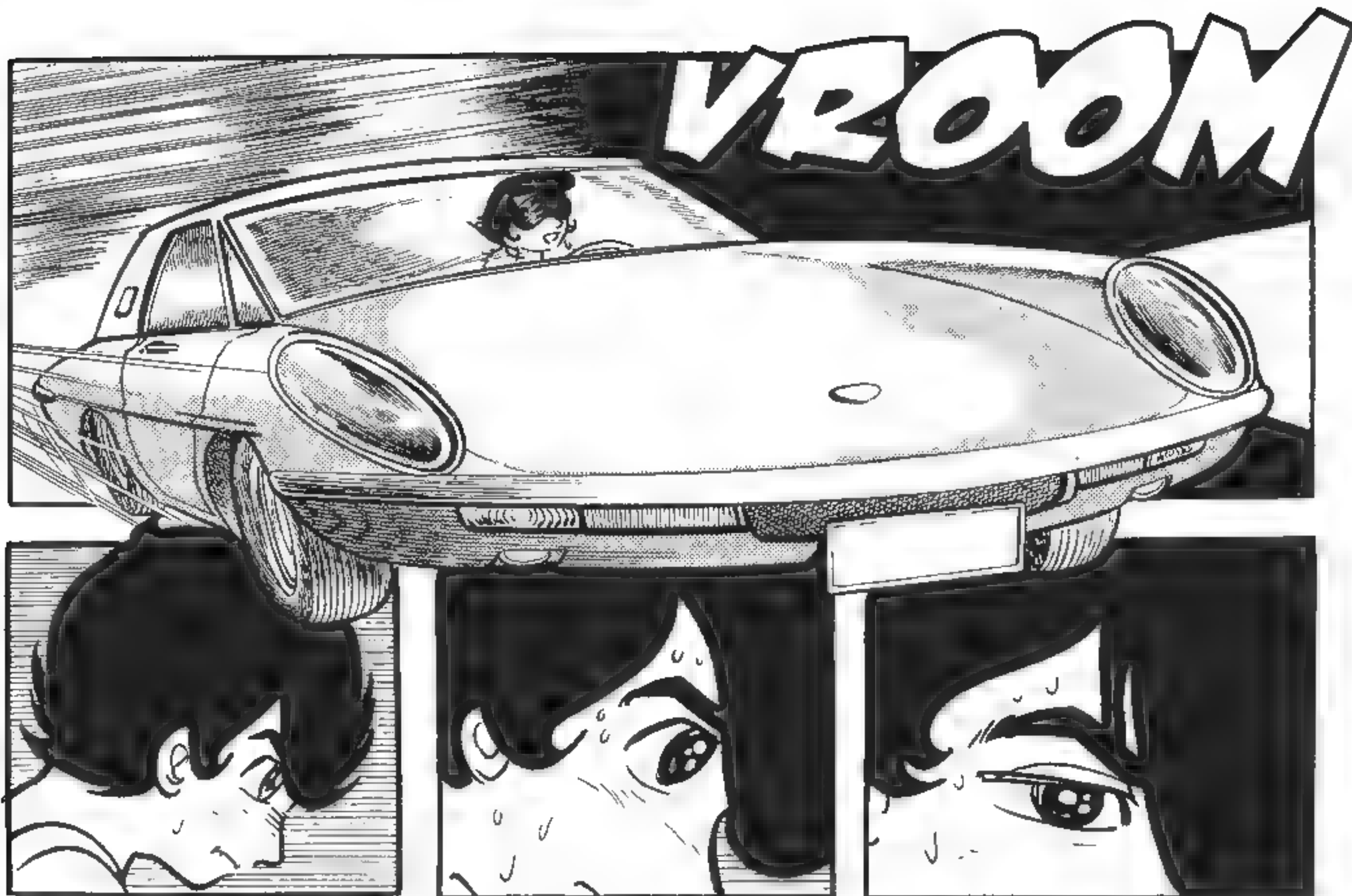


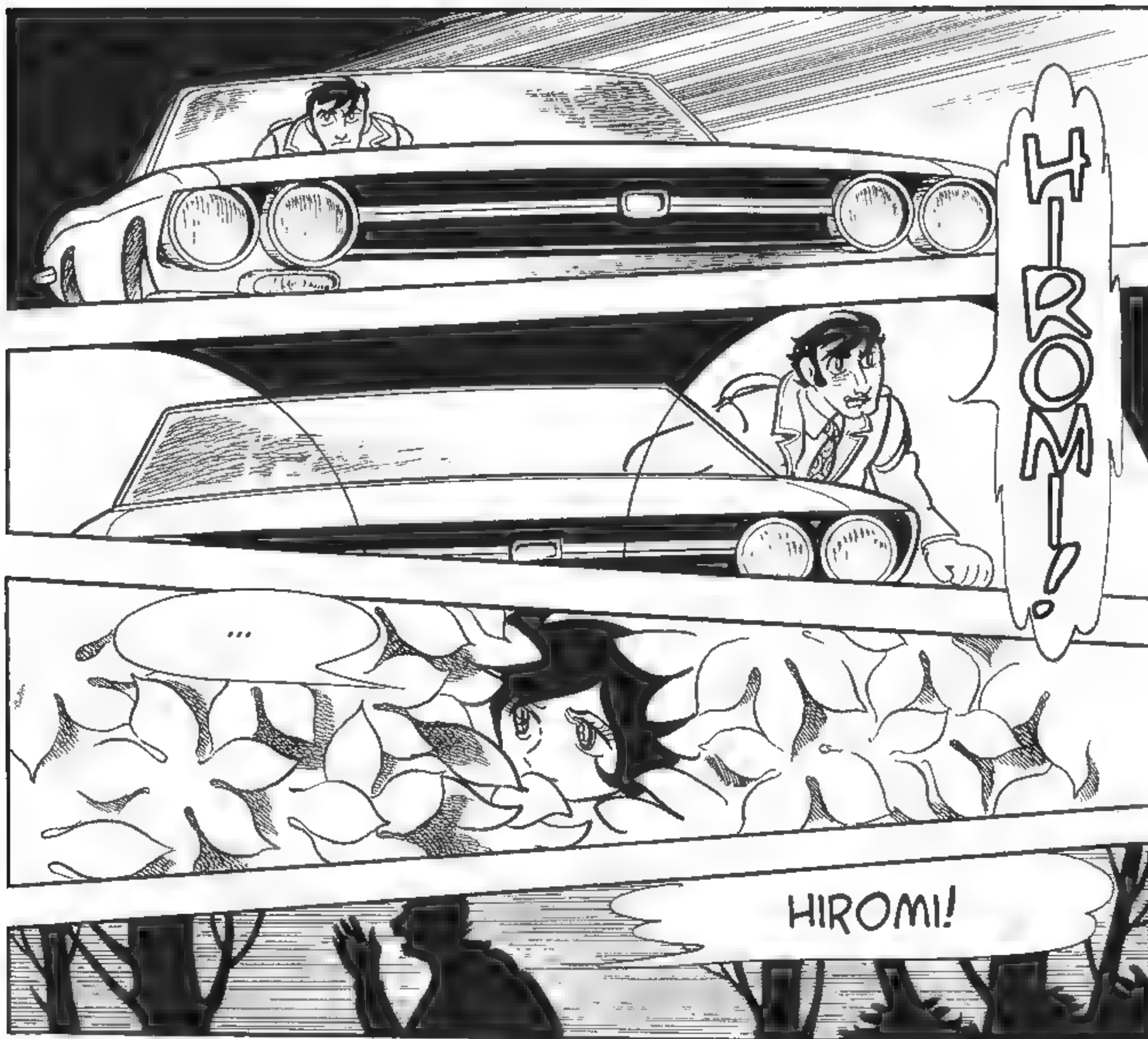












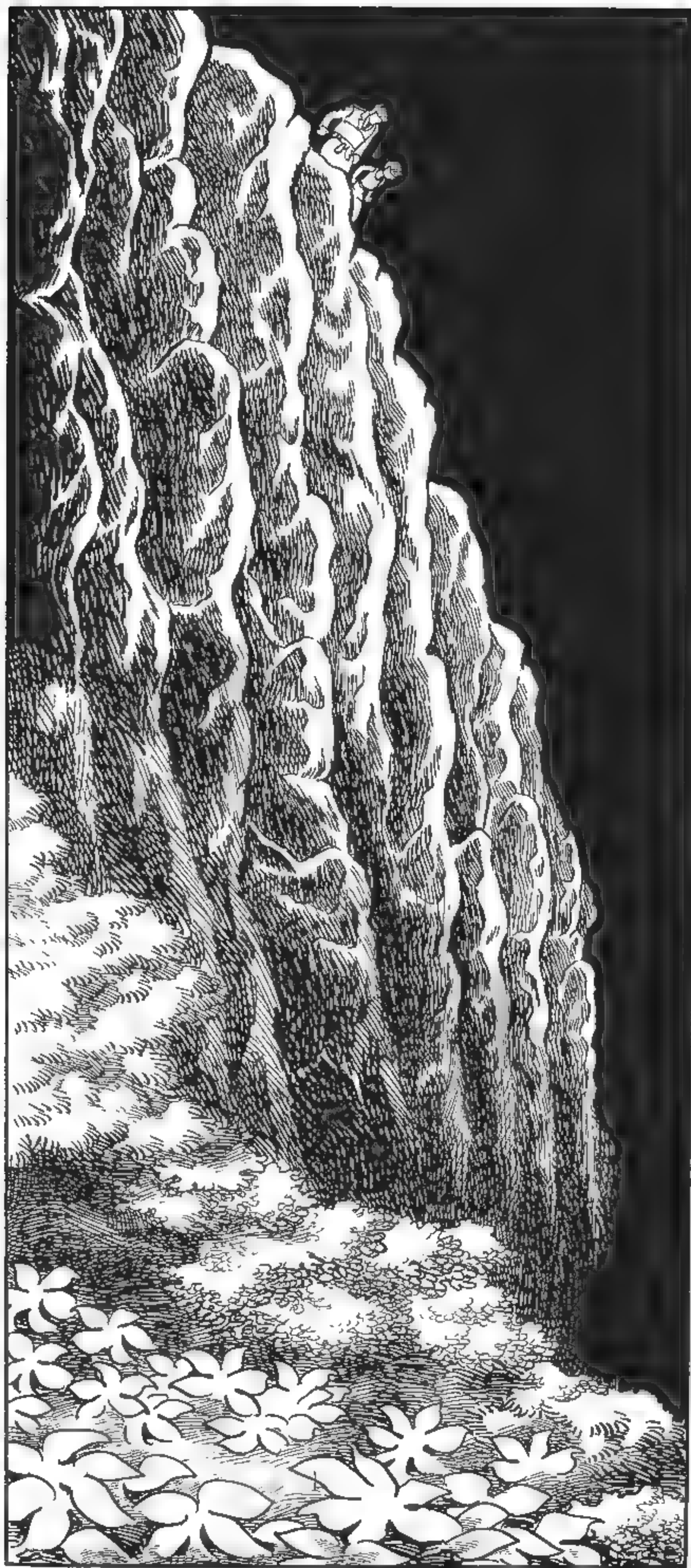




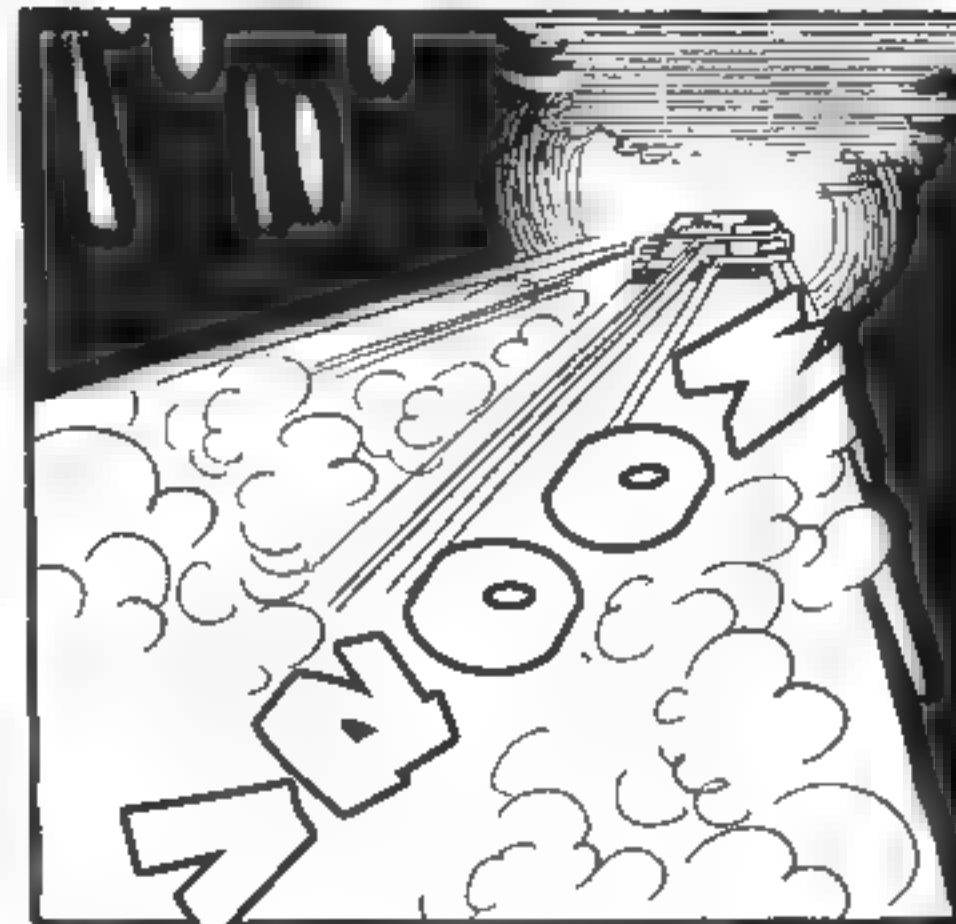


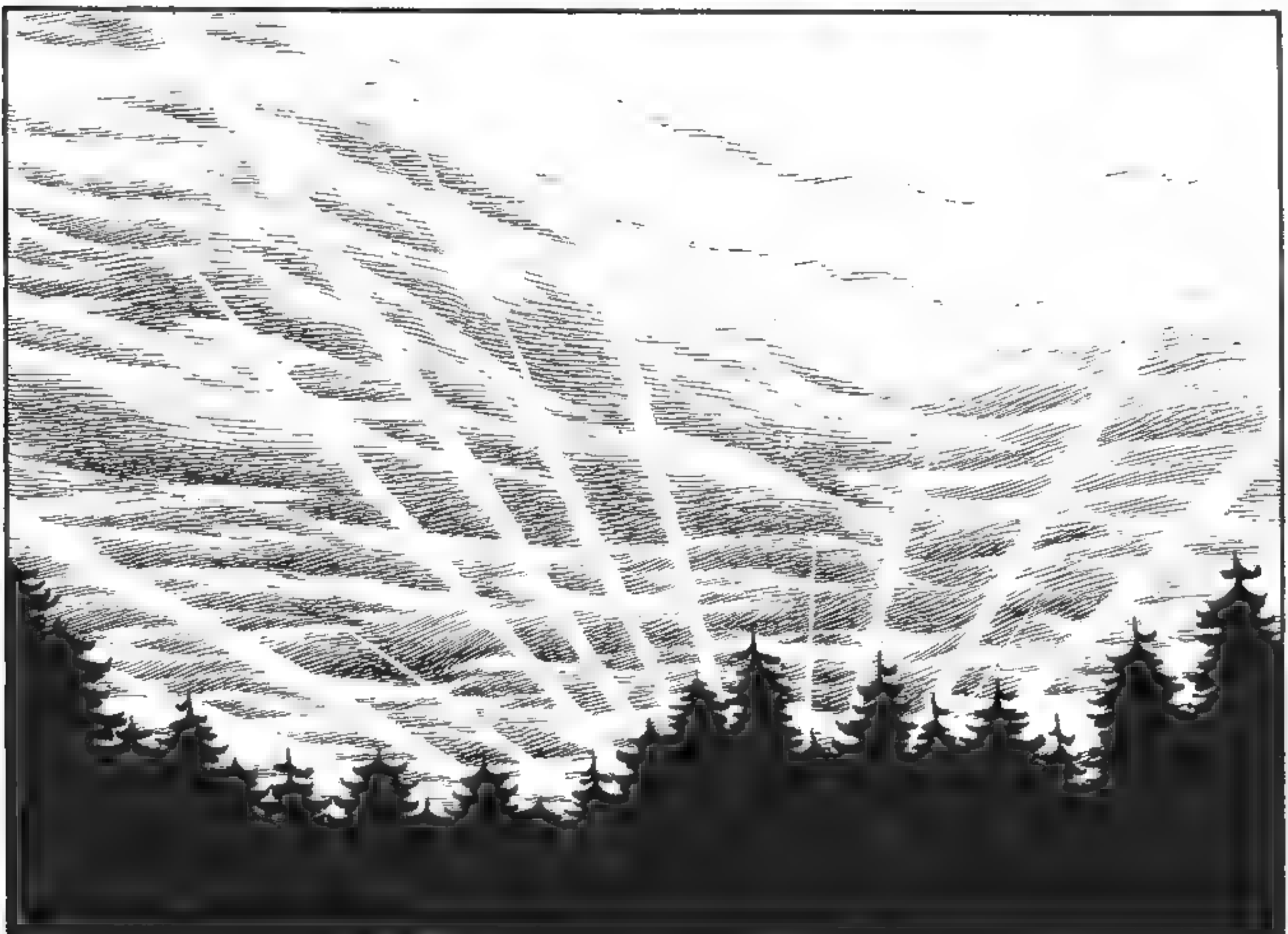
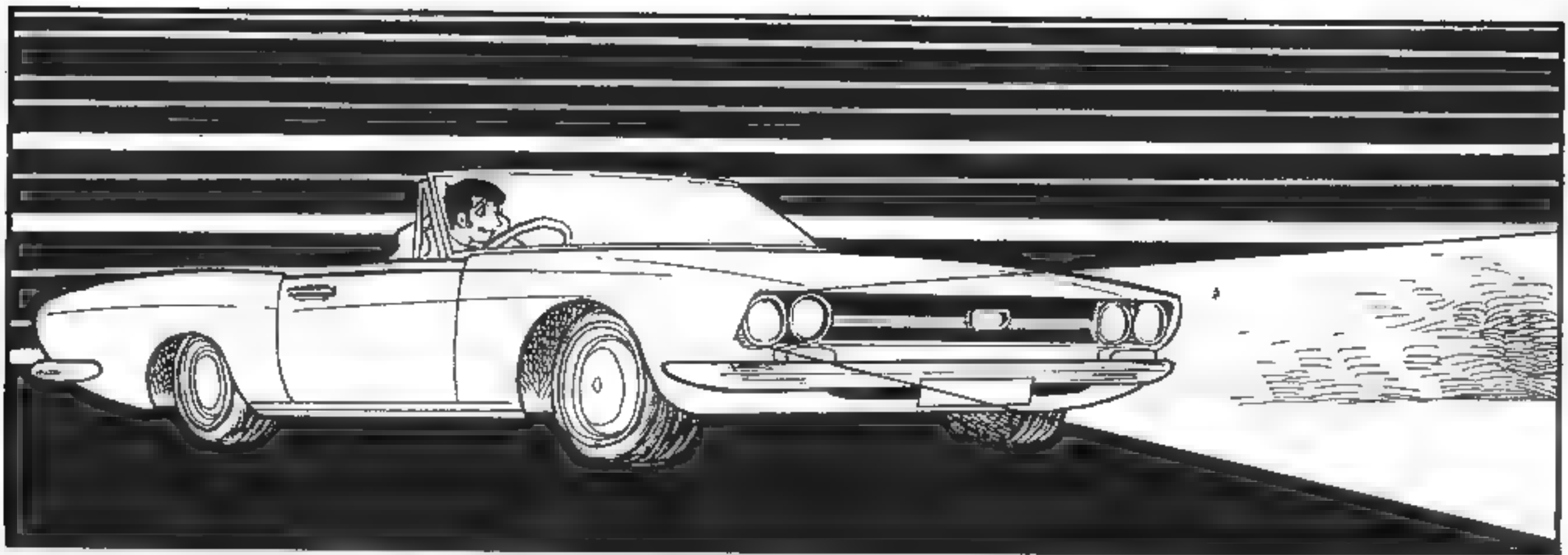


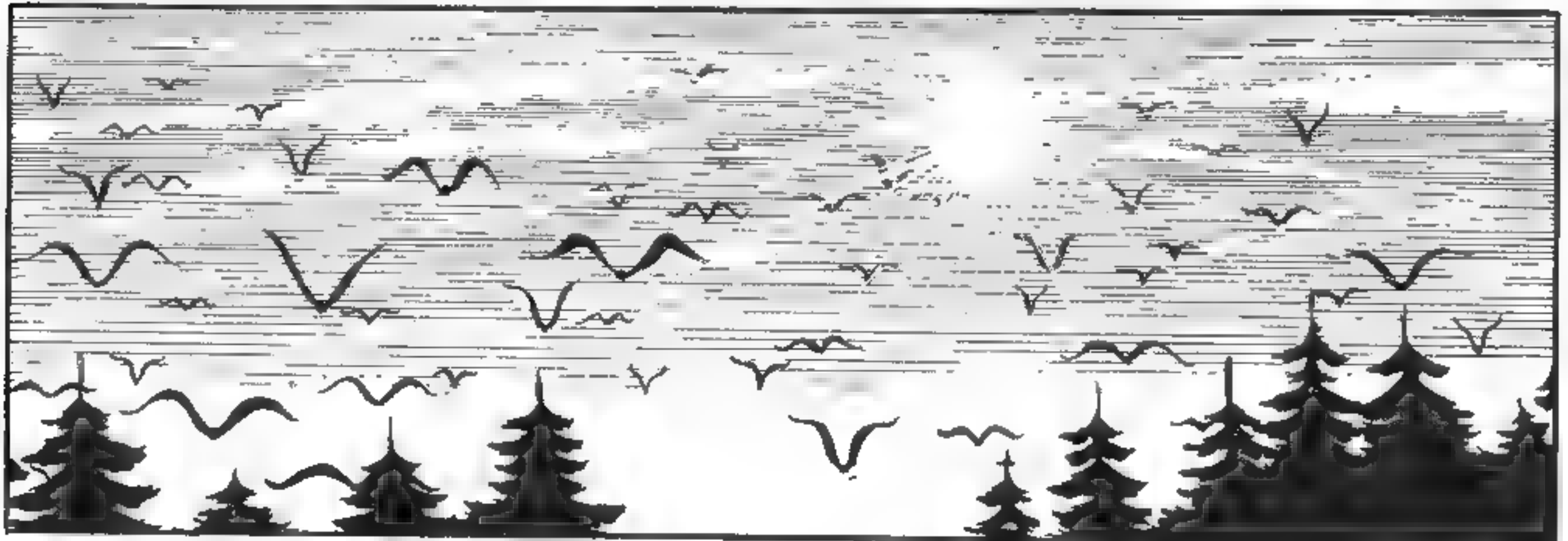
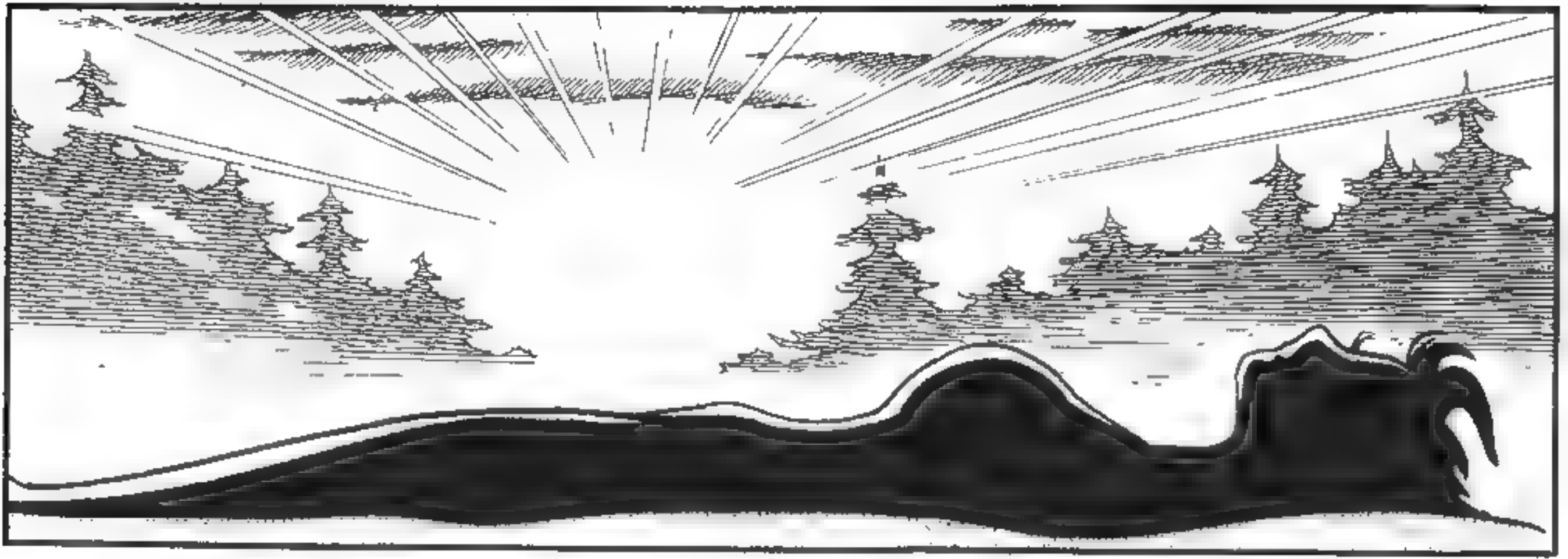


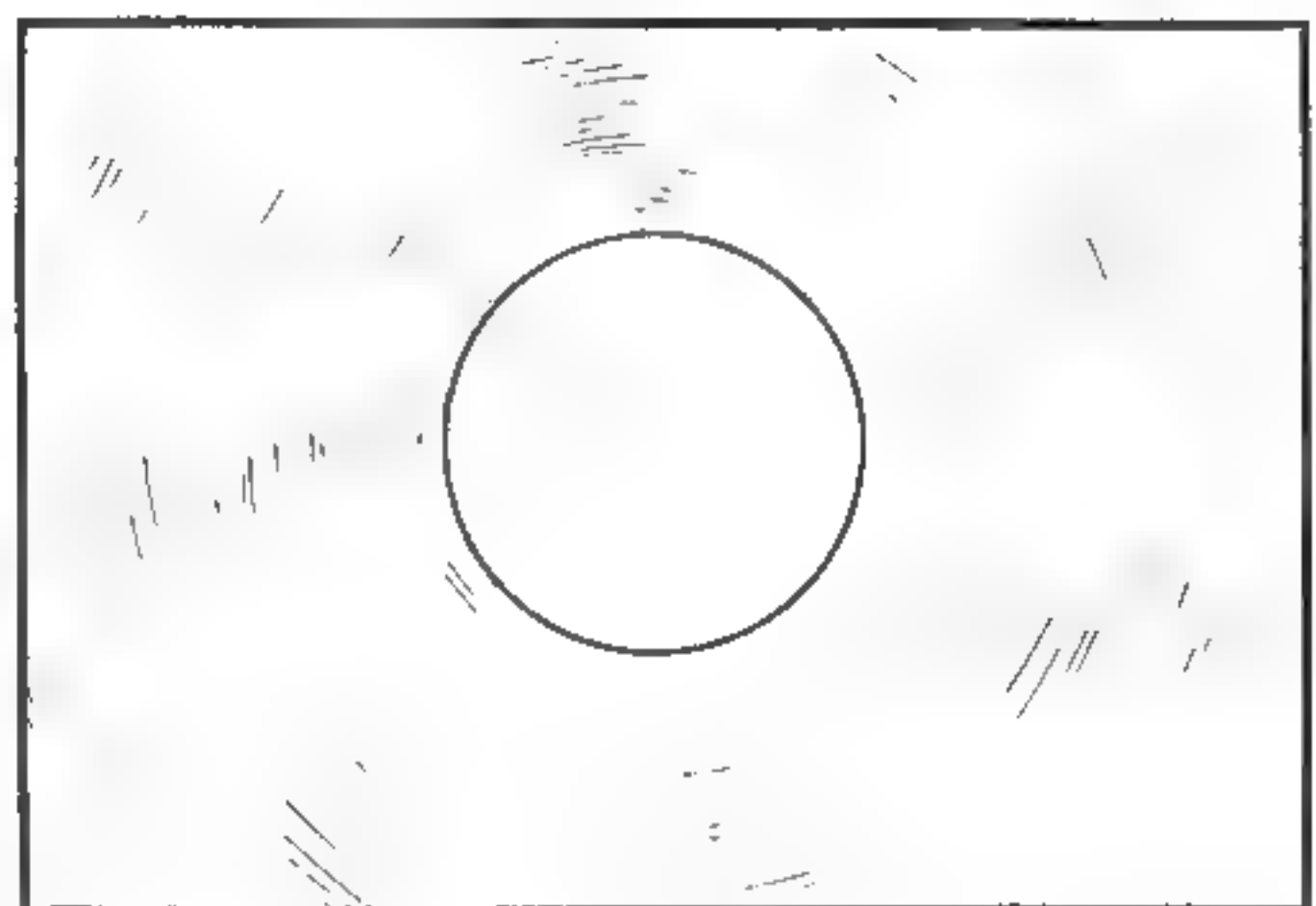
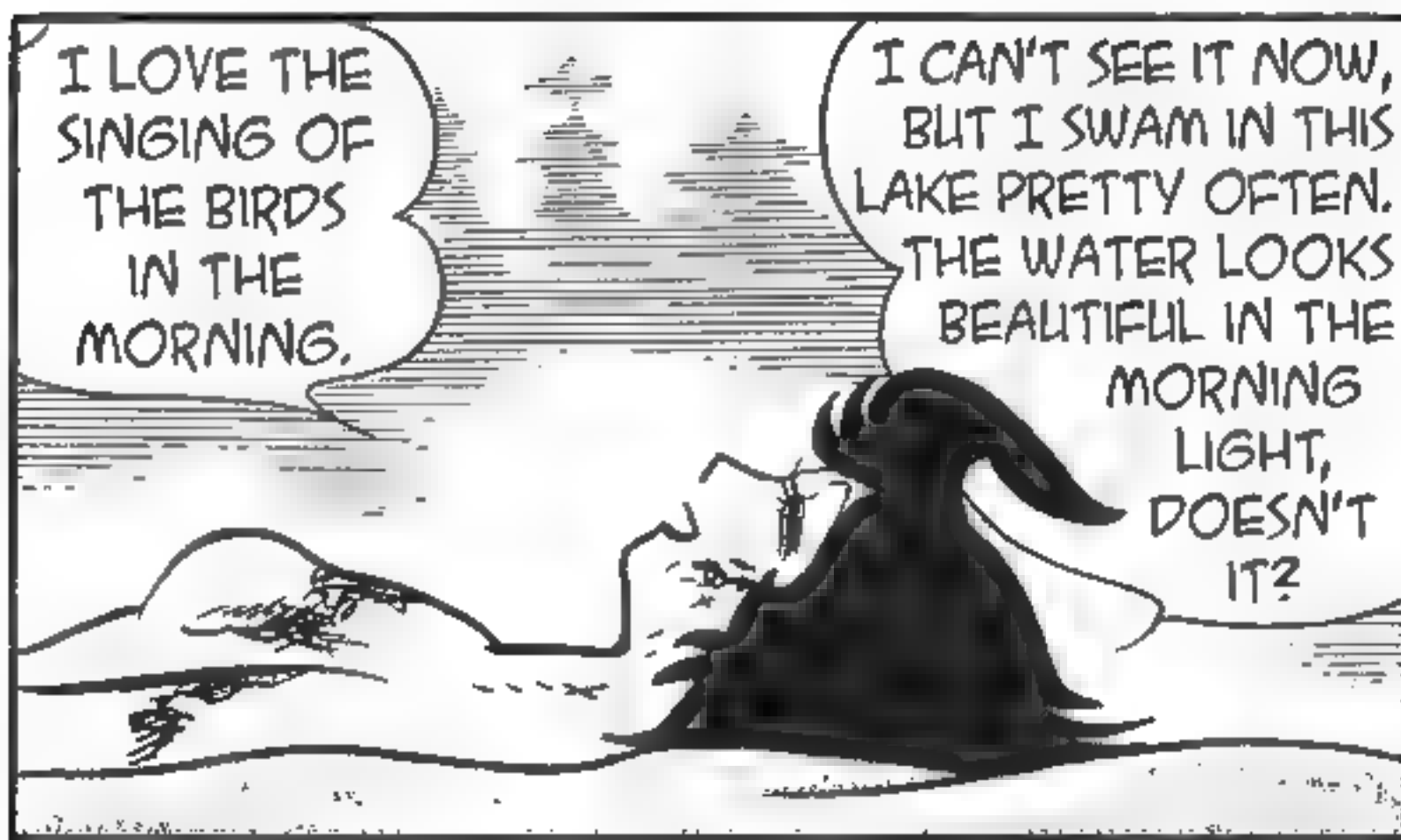














HIROMI!

DON'T
DIE!



WE MADE A PROMISE!
I'M GOING TO MAKE
A TRIUMPHANT DEBUT
AS A RUNNER!
YOU CAN'T
DIE NOW!

CAN YOU
HEAR ME?
I'M RIGHT
HERE!

I CAN'T FEEL...
MY HANDS...
SHOGO,
WHERE
ARE YOU?
I CAN'T HOLD
OUT MUCH
LONGER...



THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO.

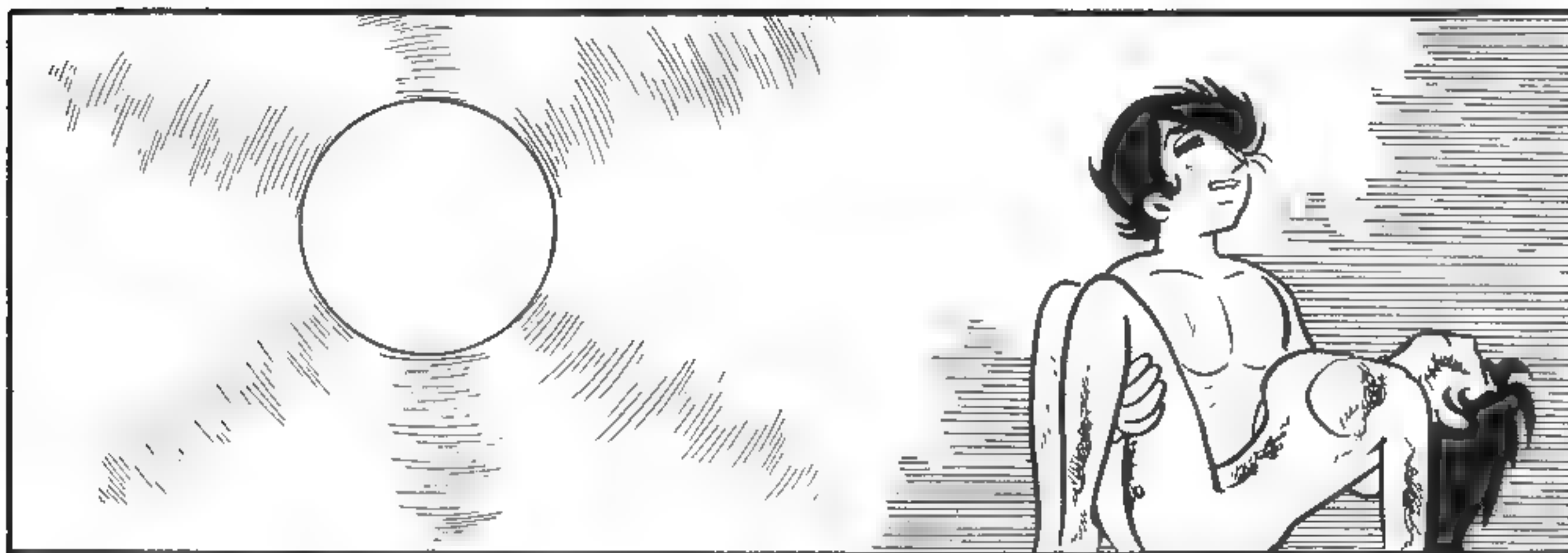
FORGIVE
ME...

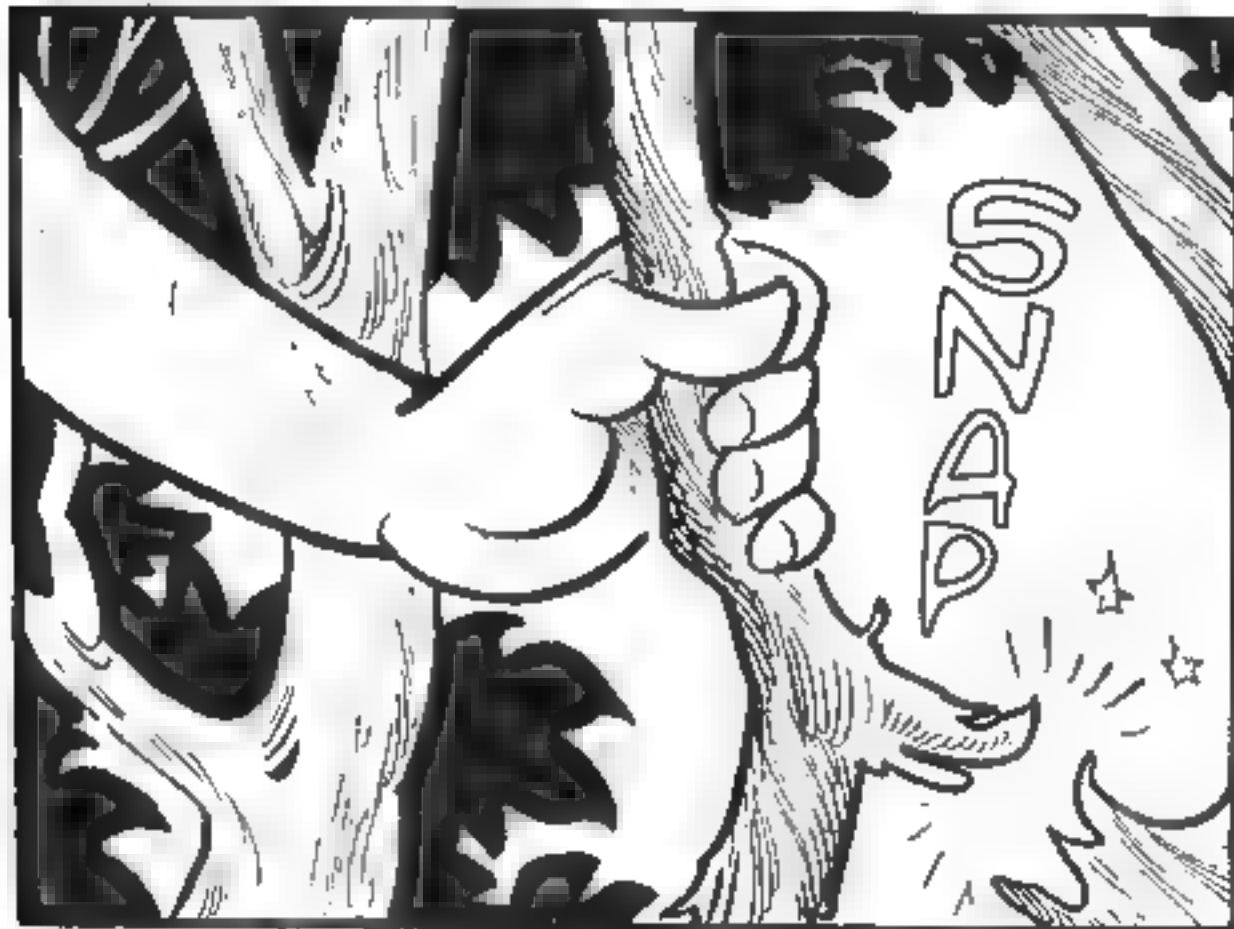
FOR
EVERYTHING
...

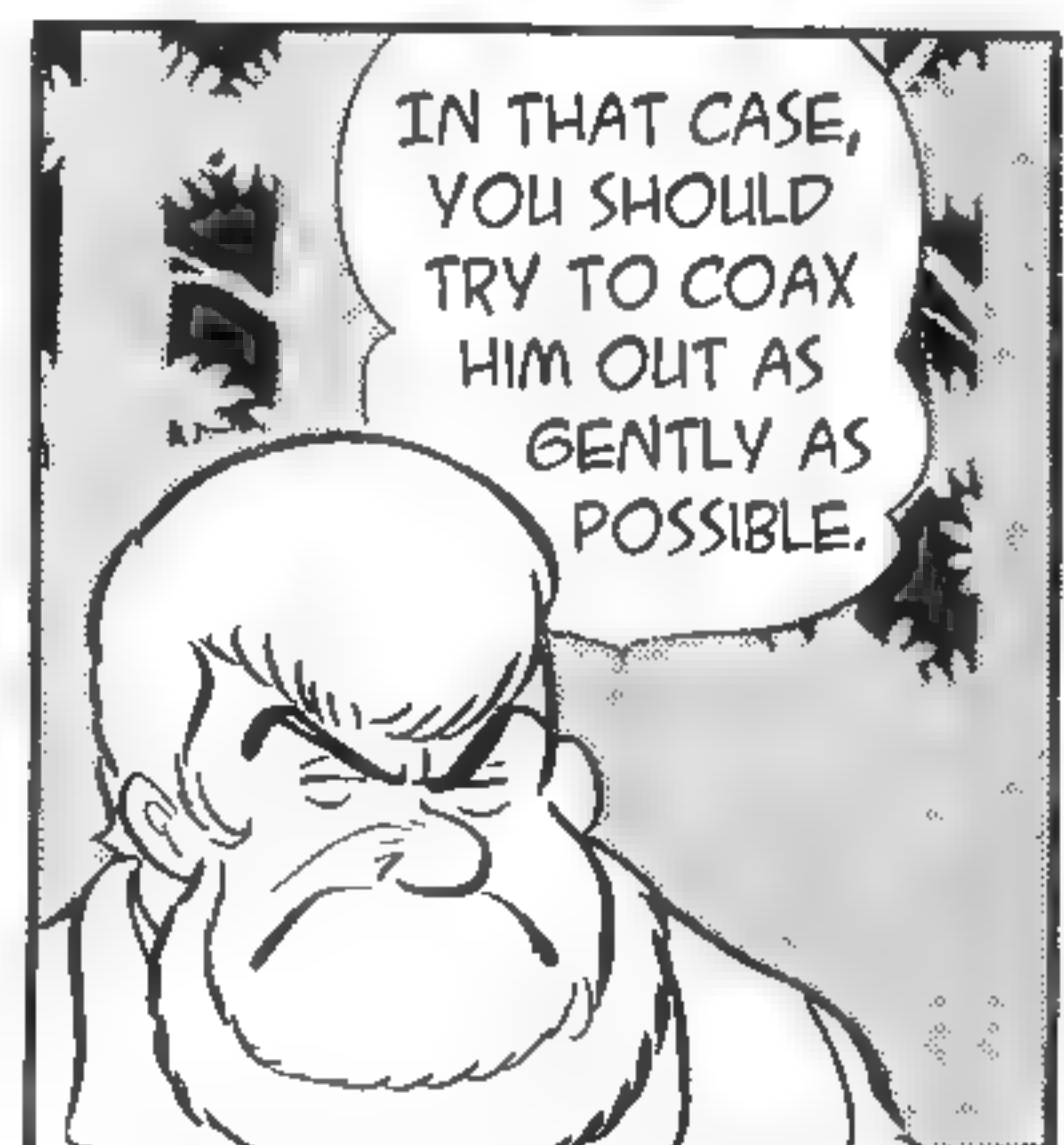
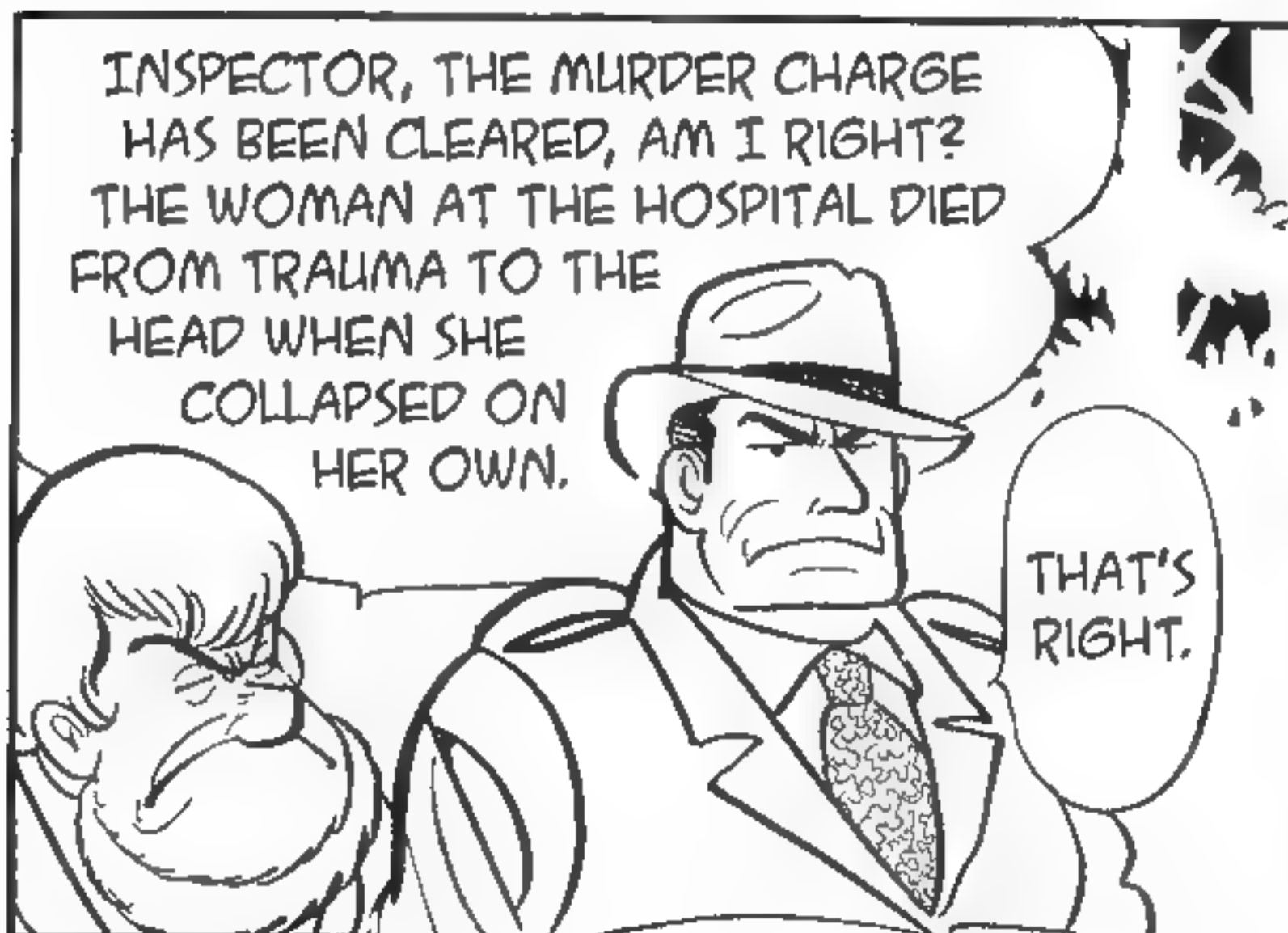


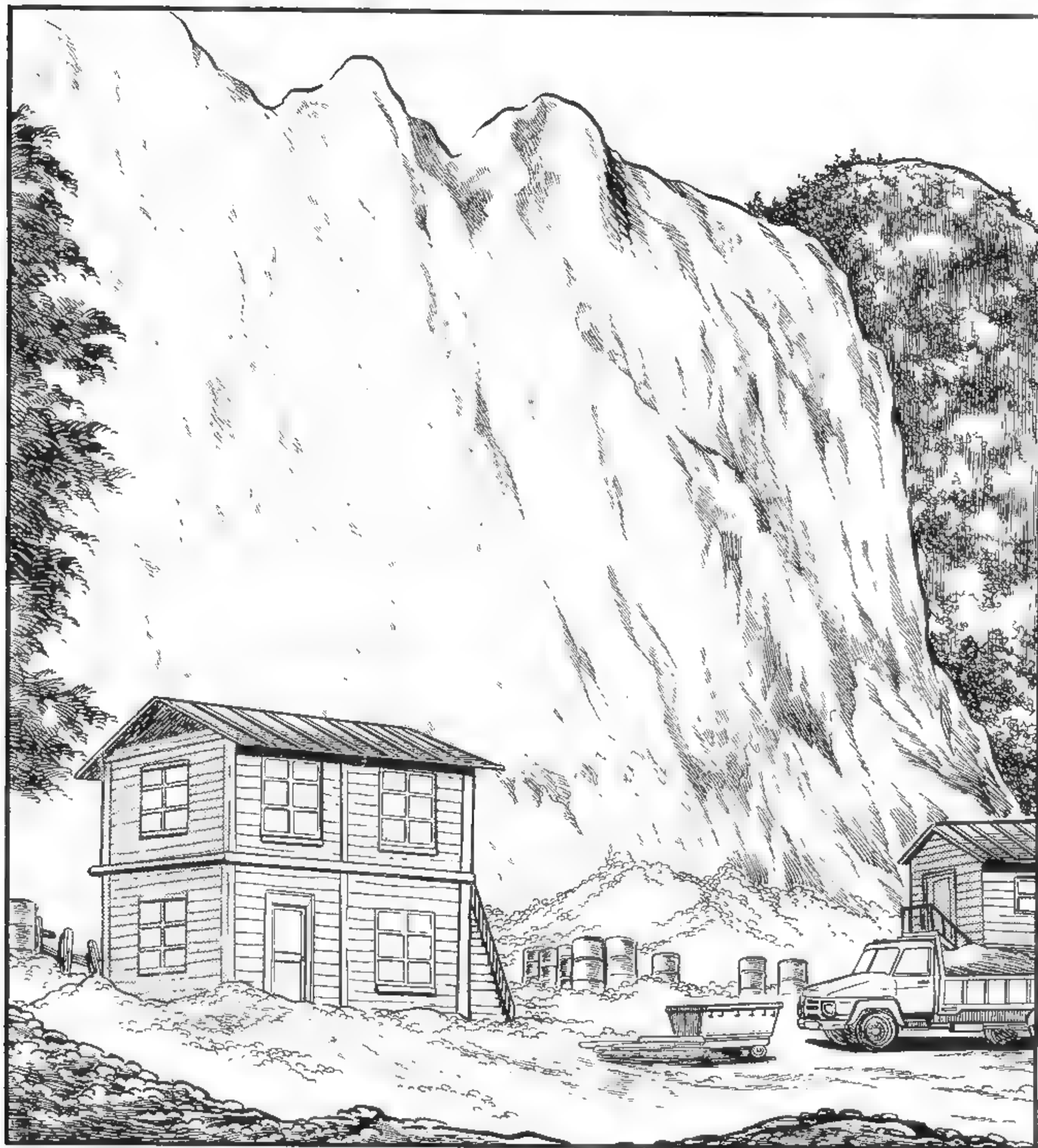


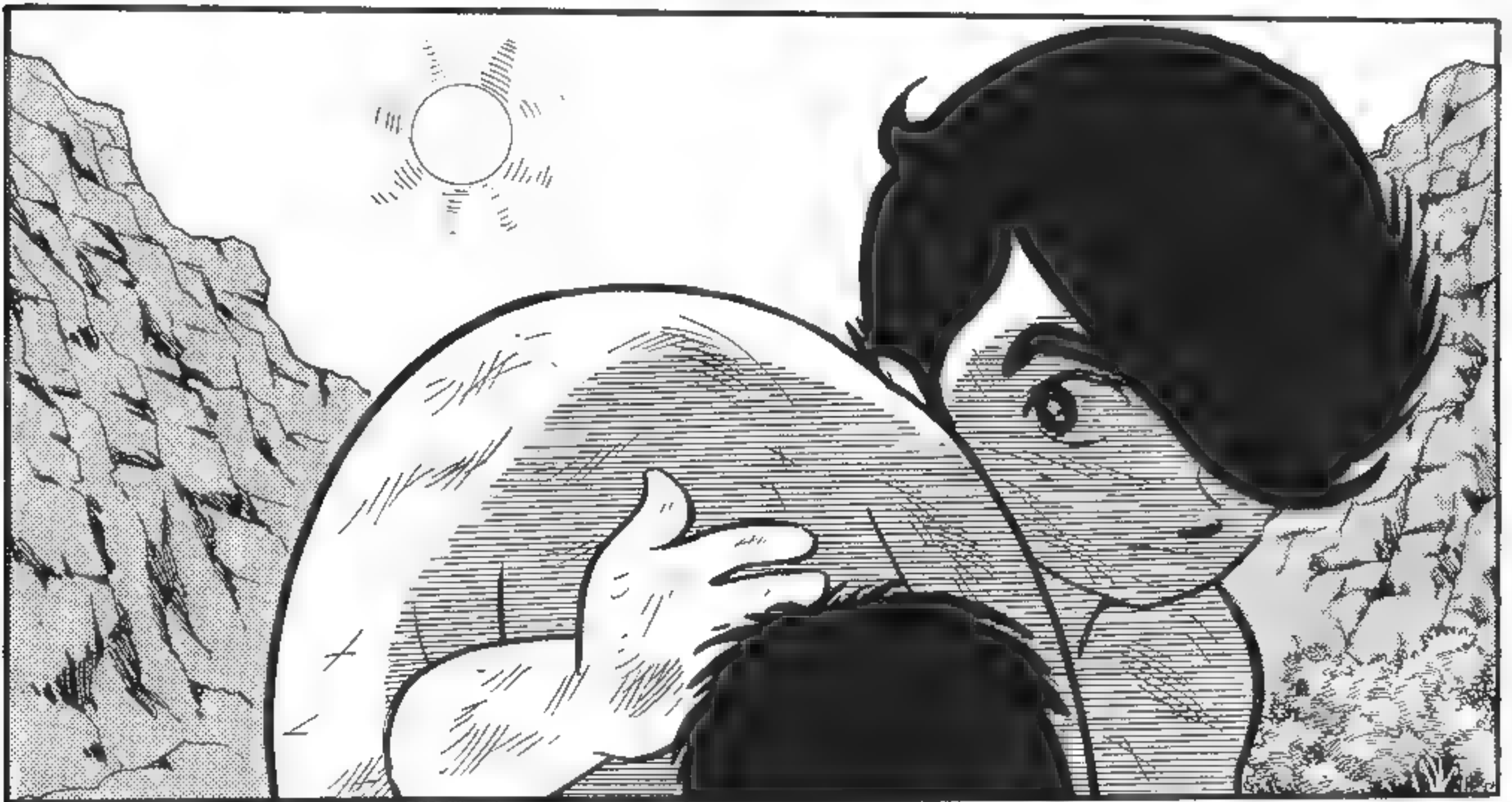


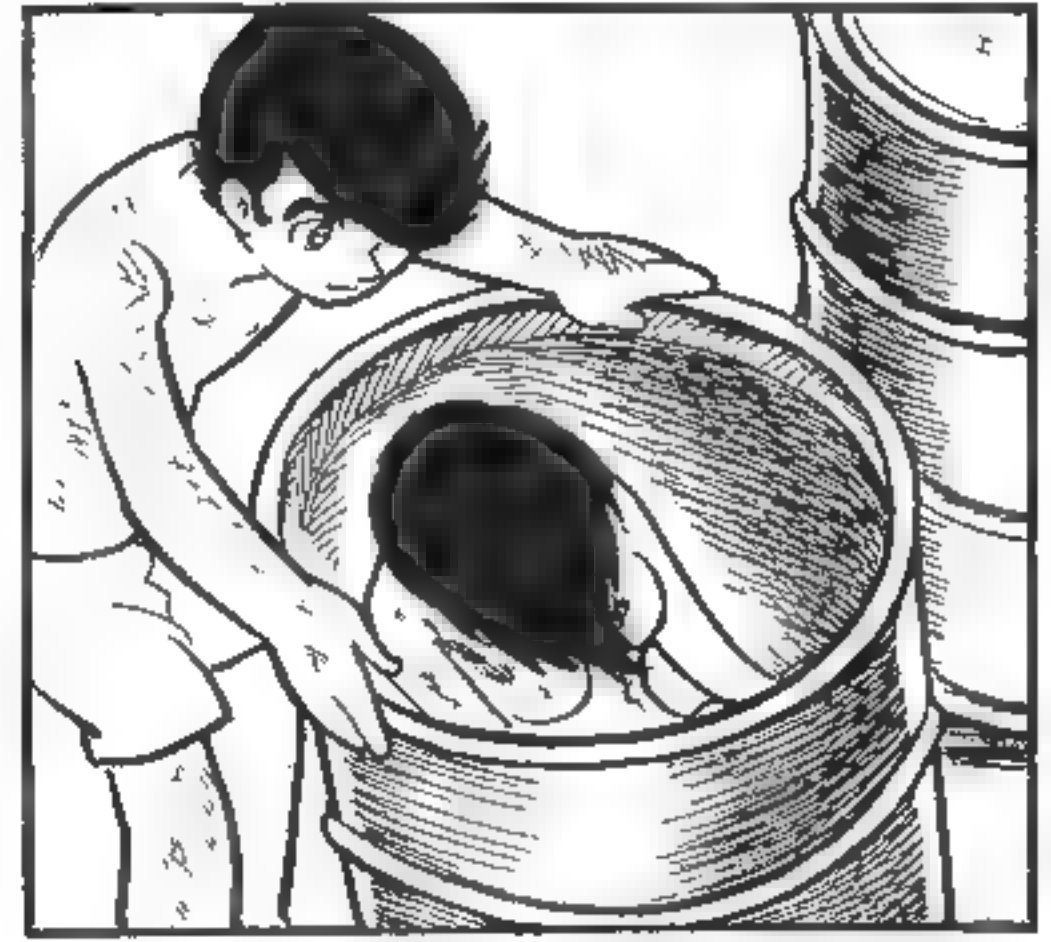
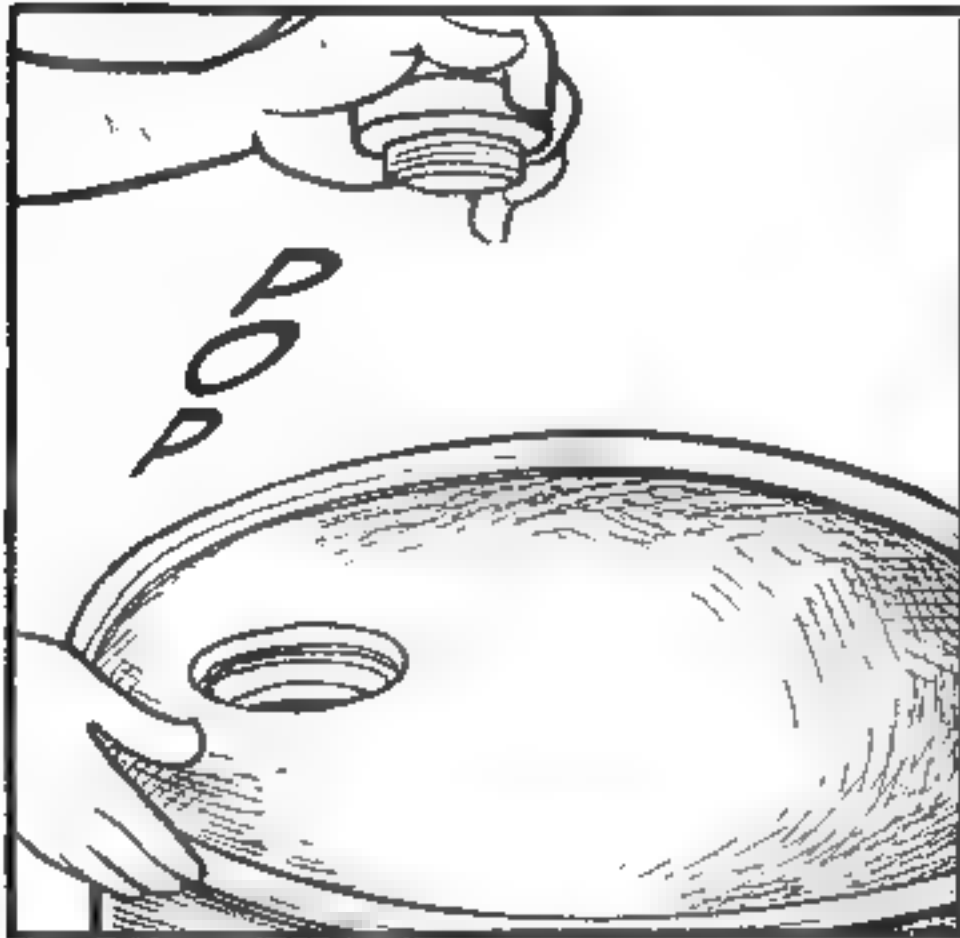
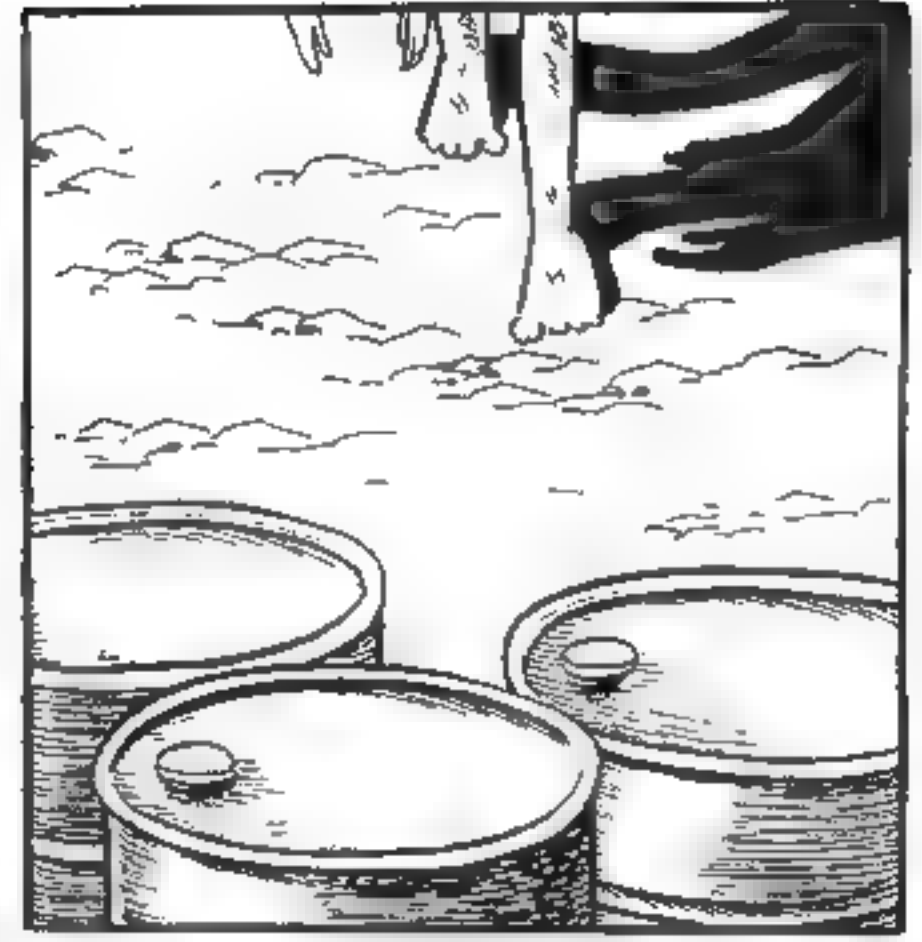
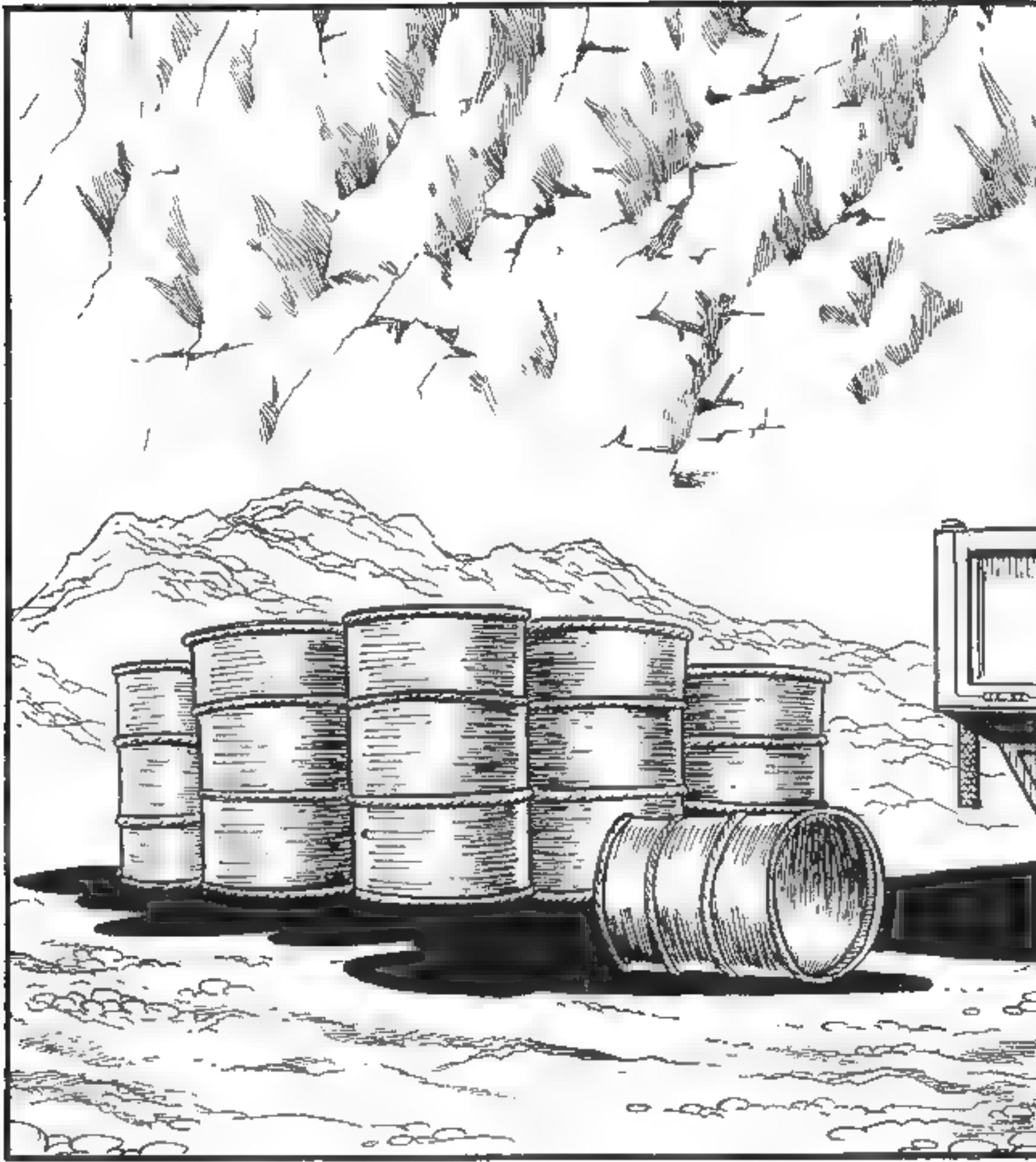


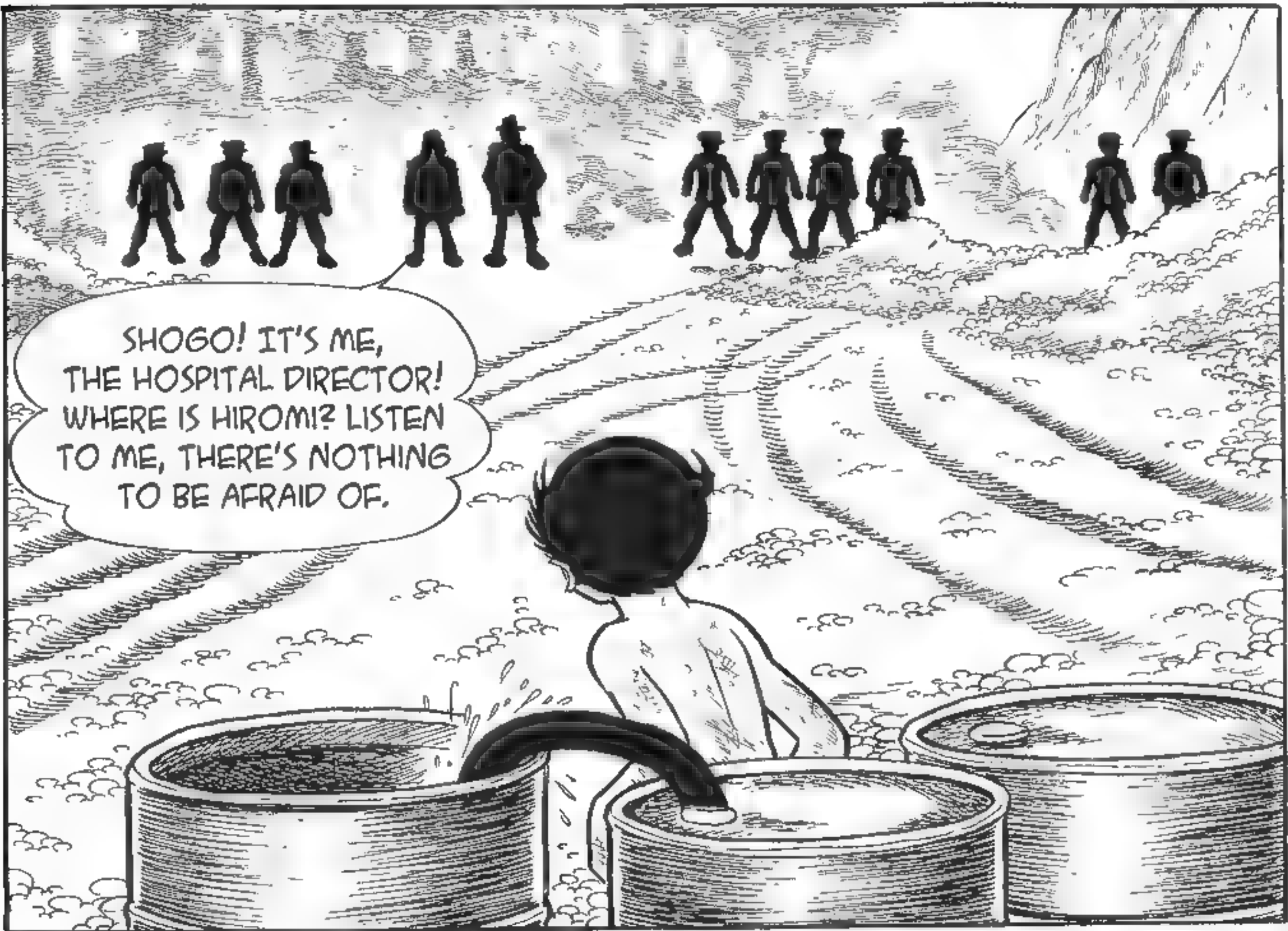
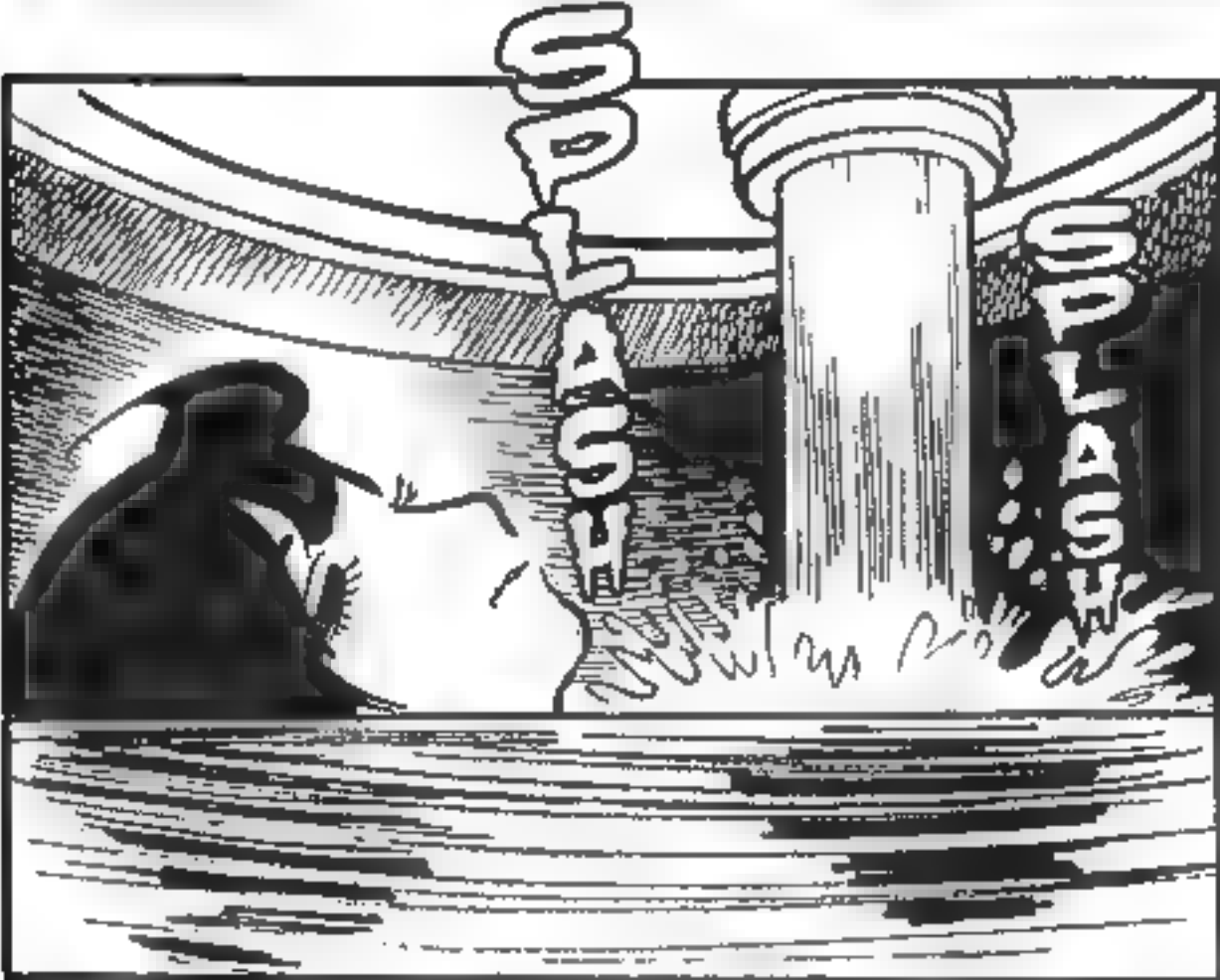
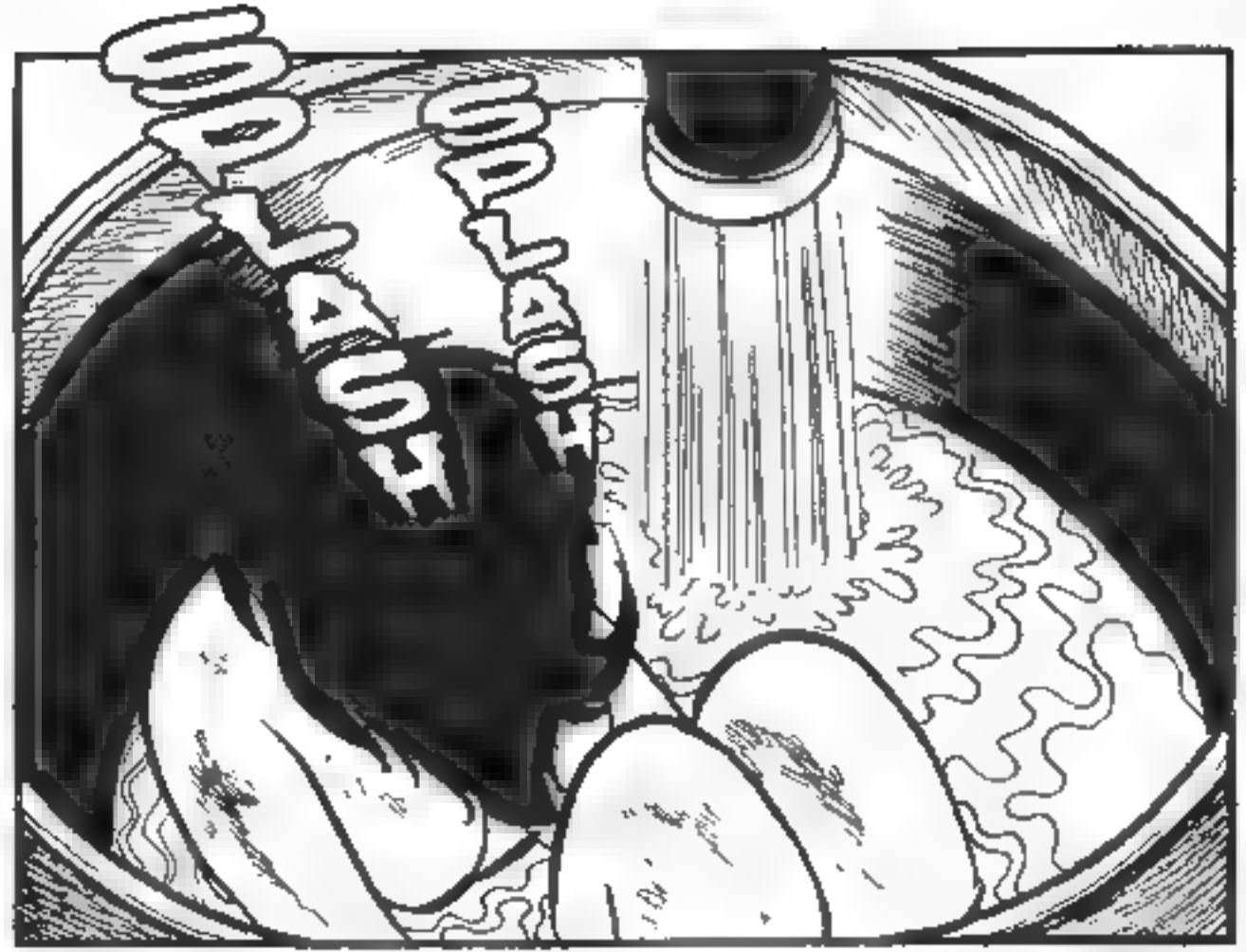
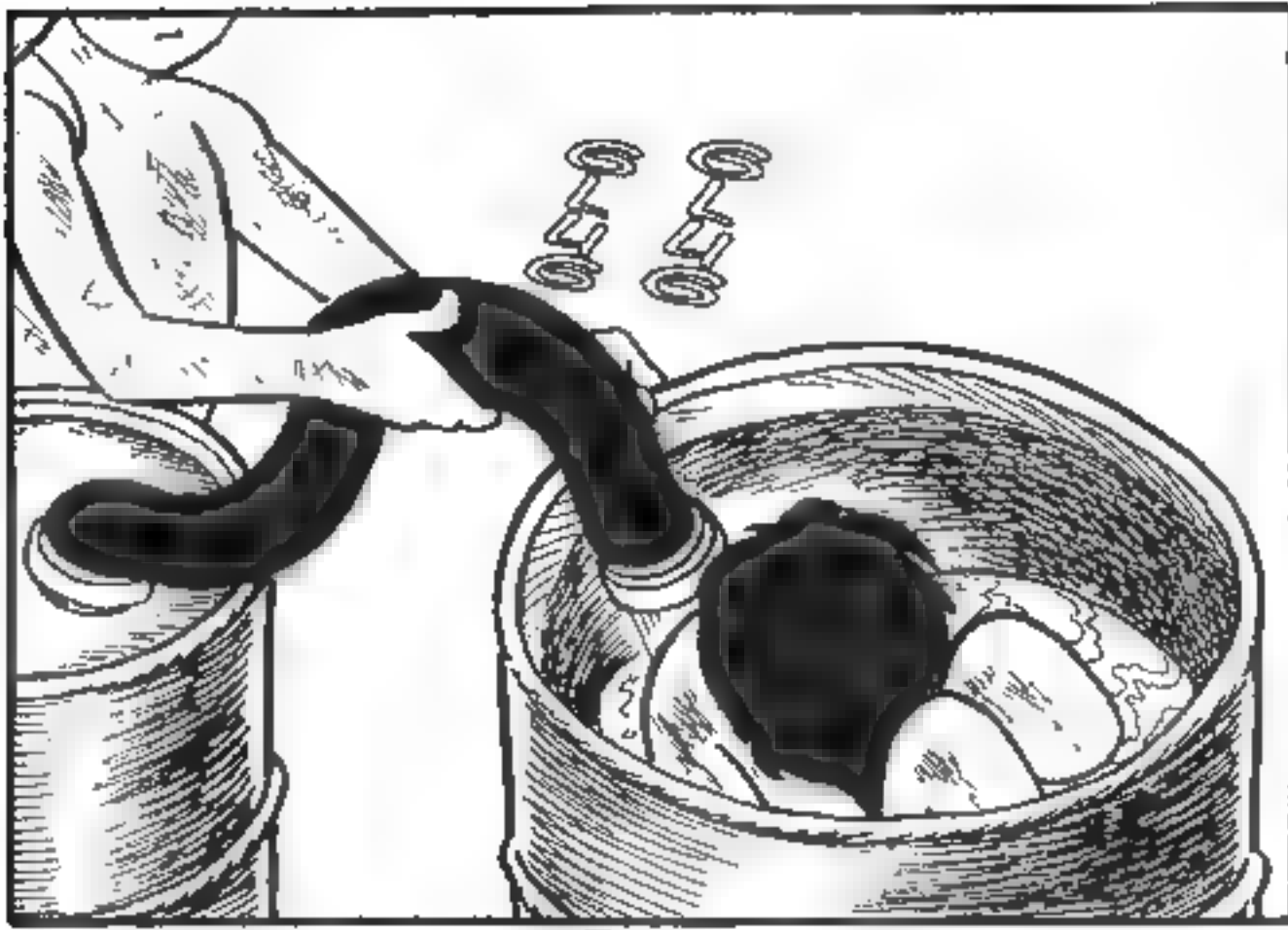


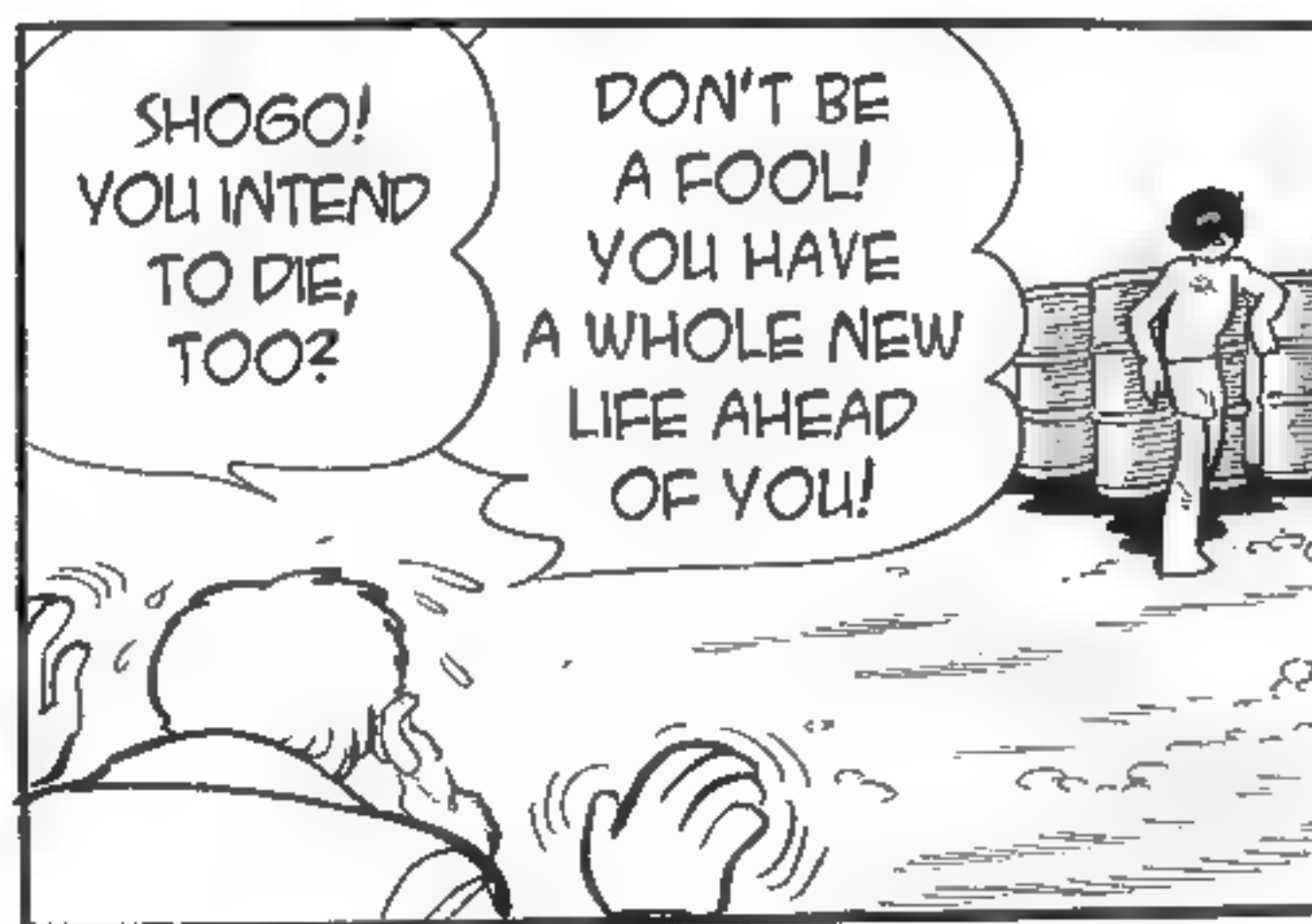


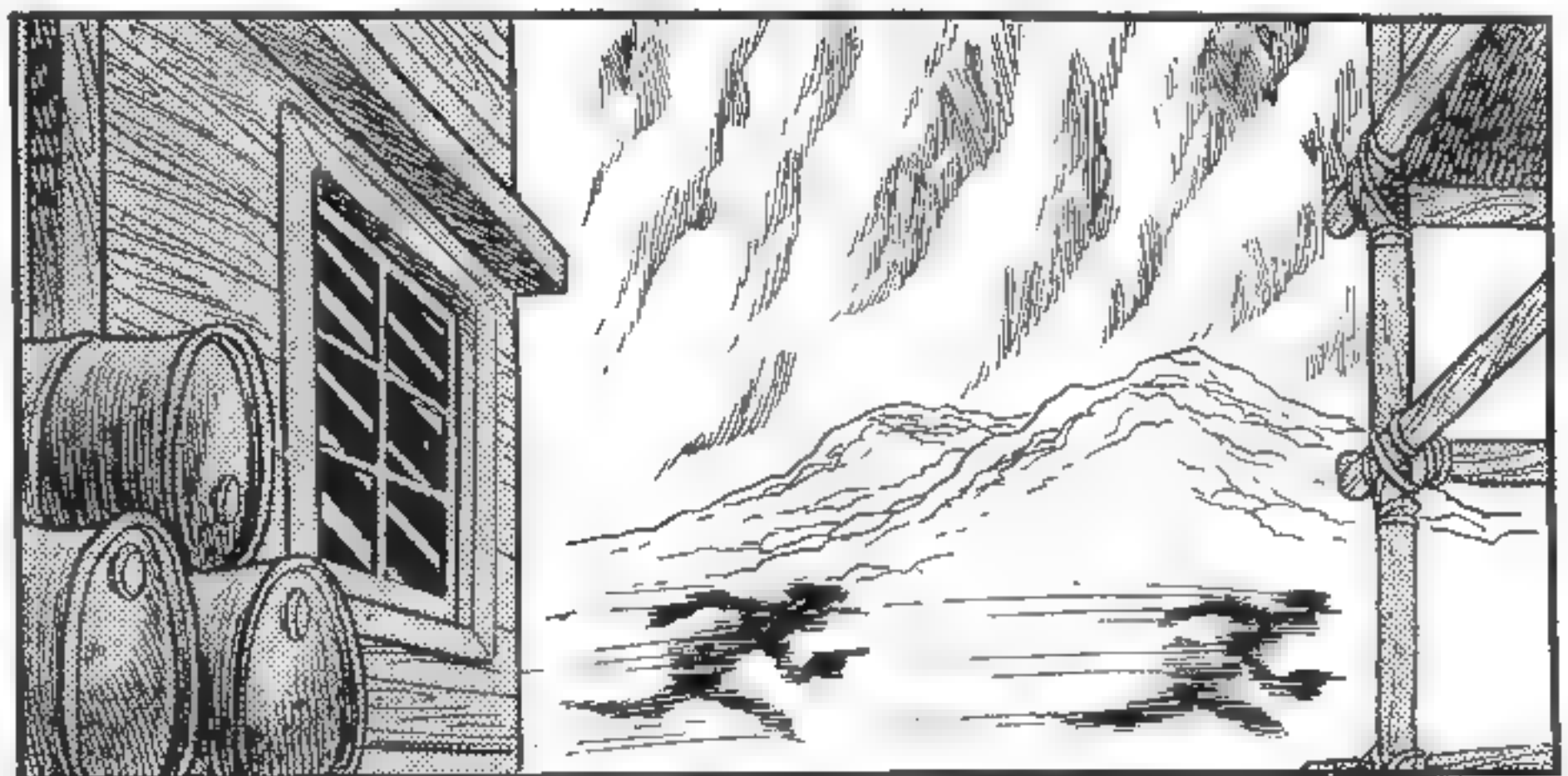
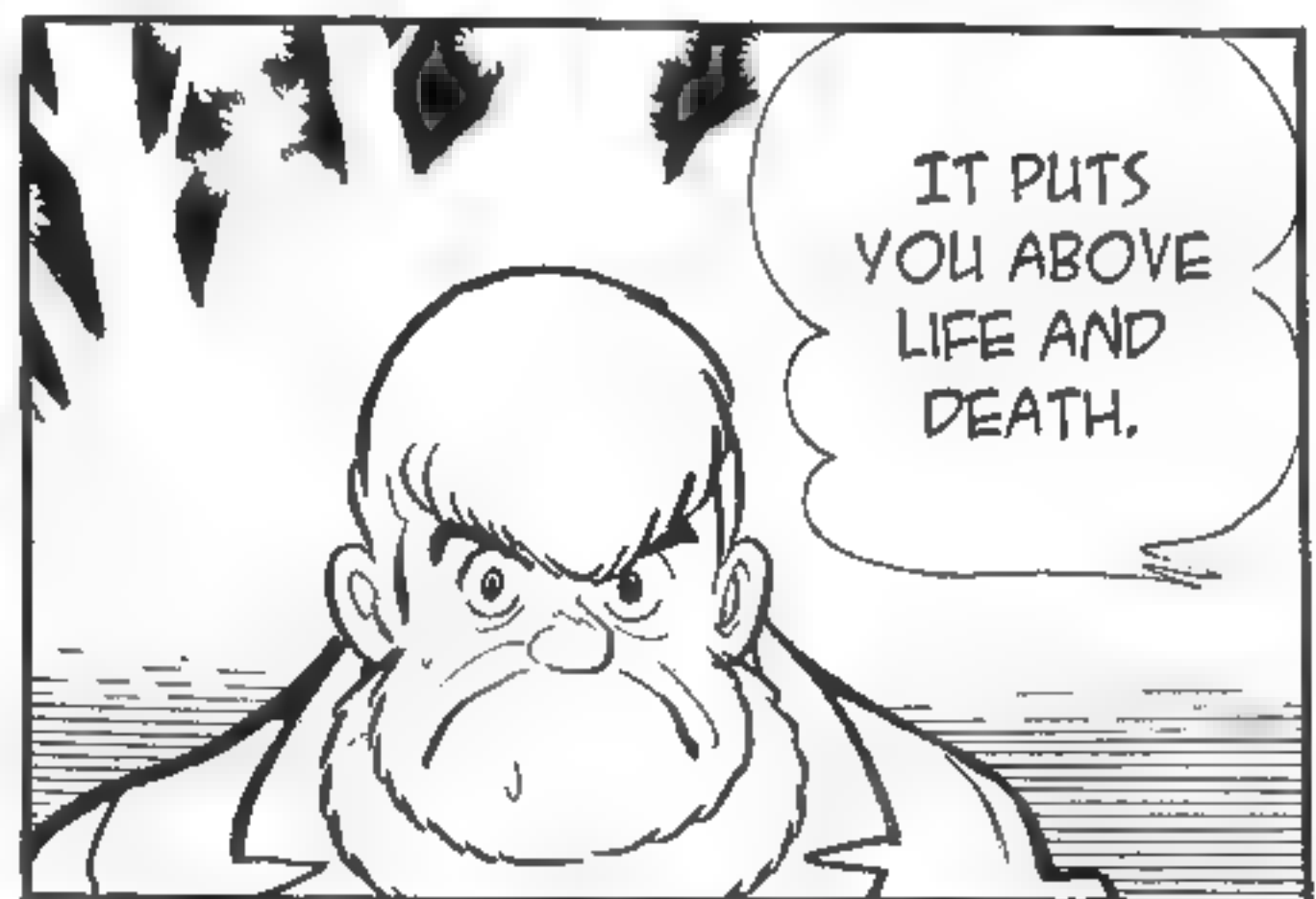
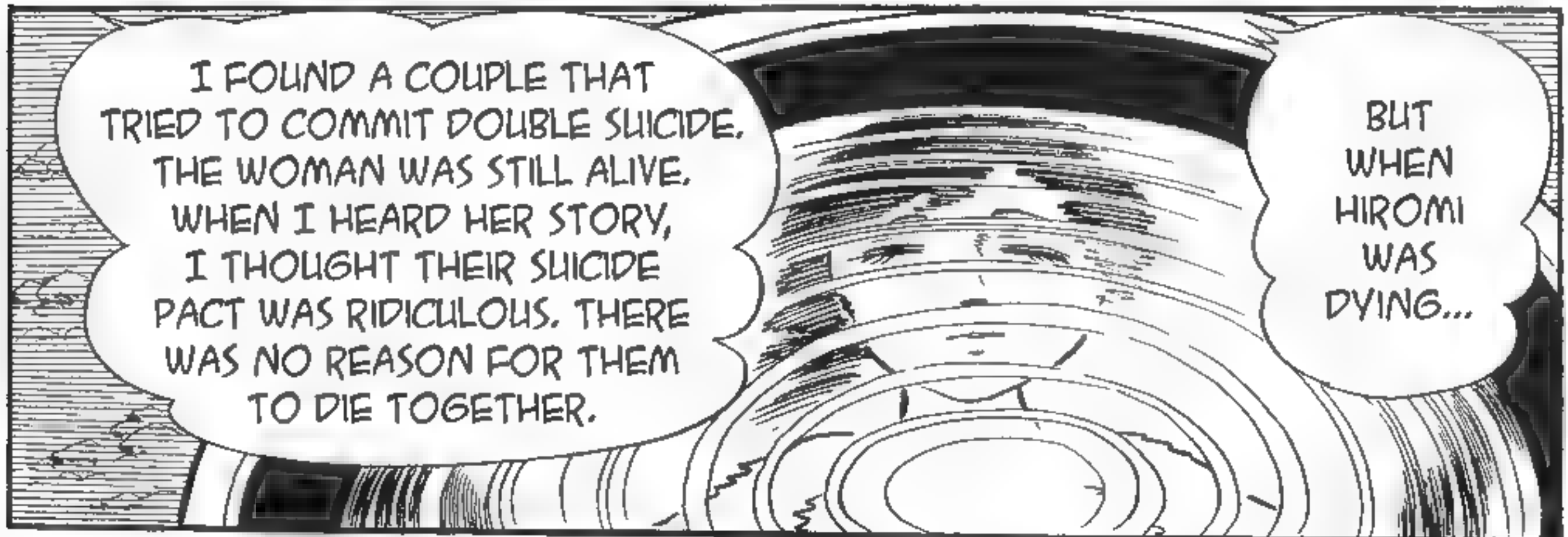


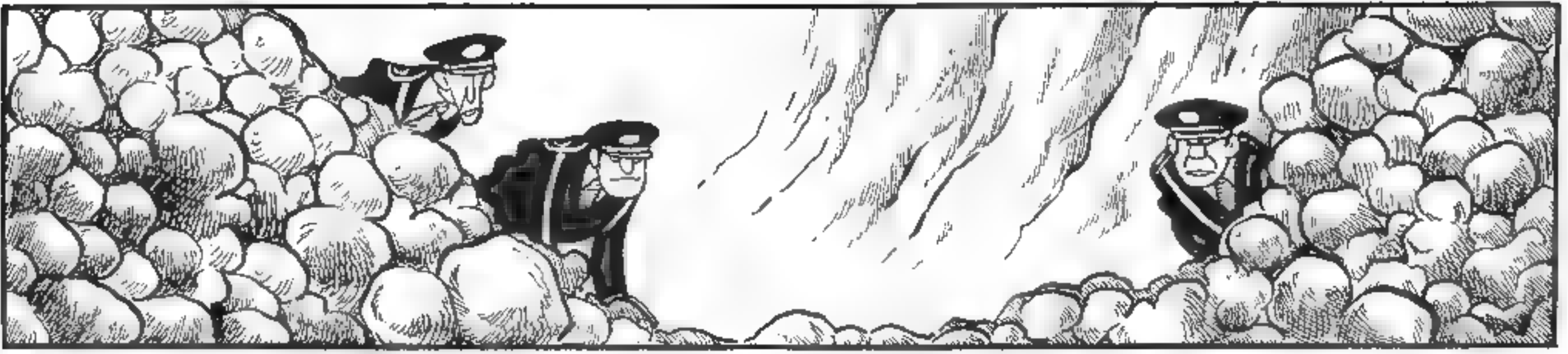






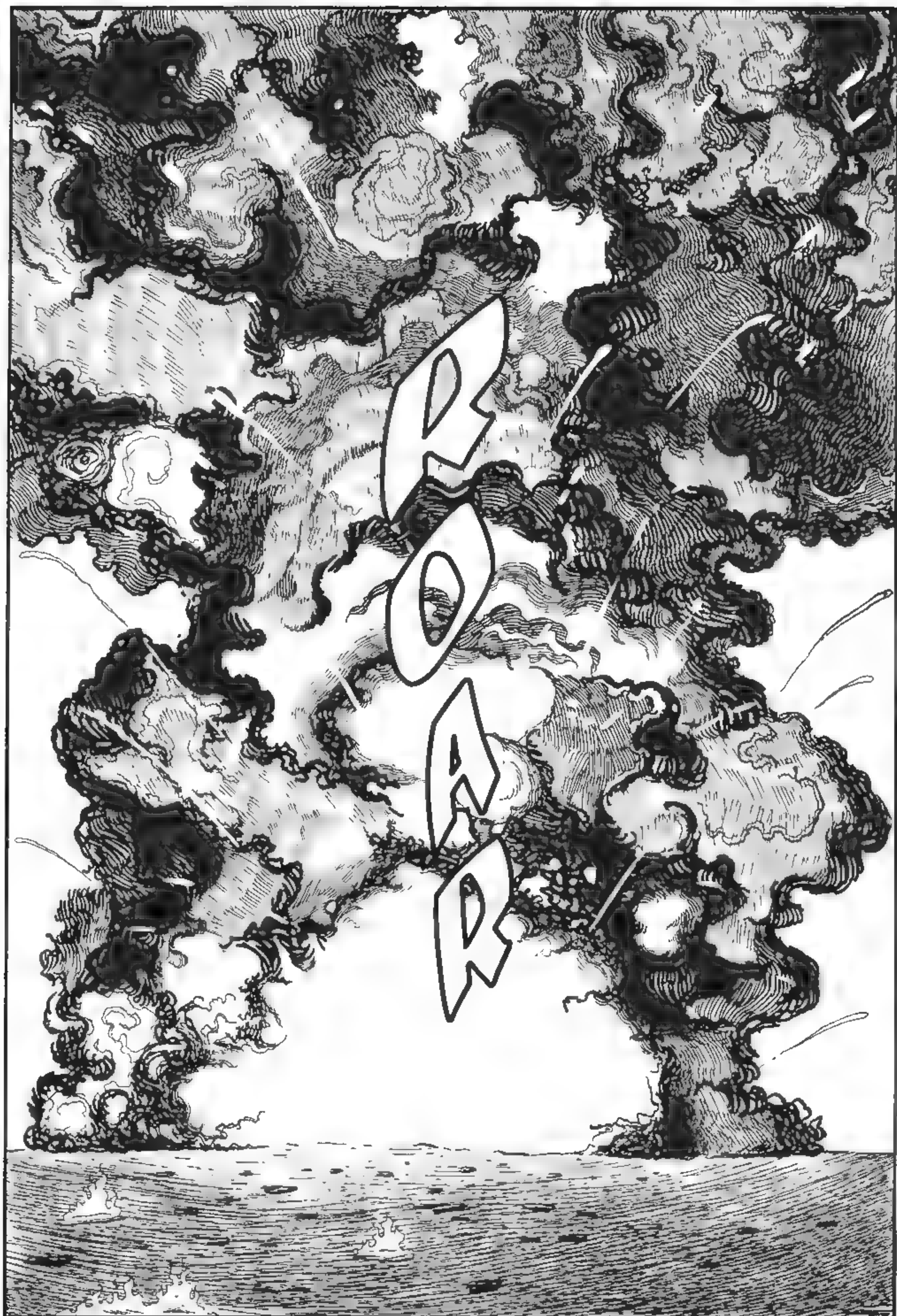


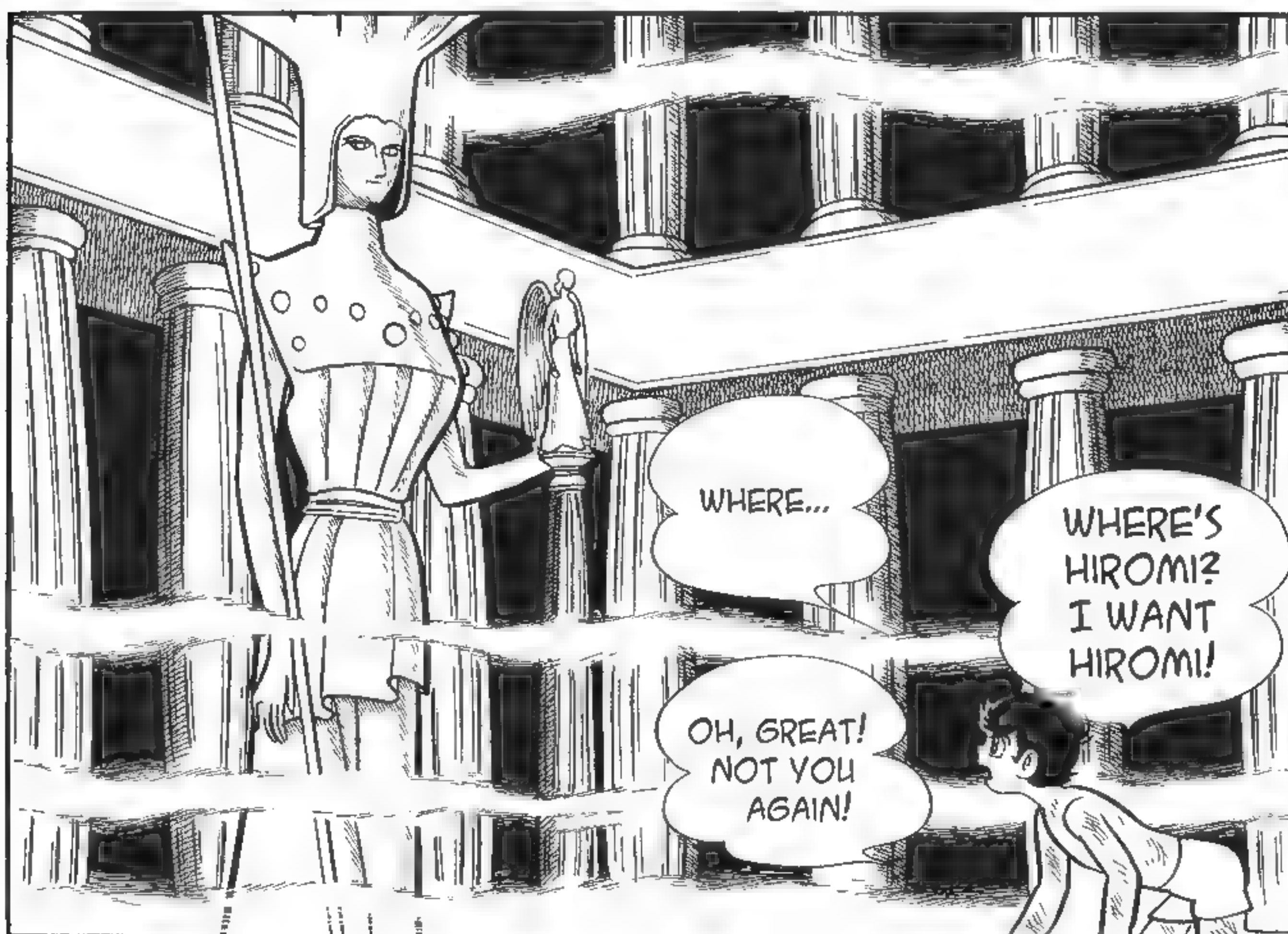
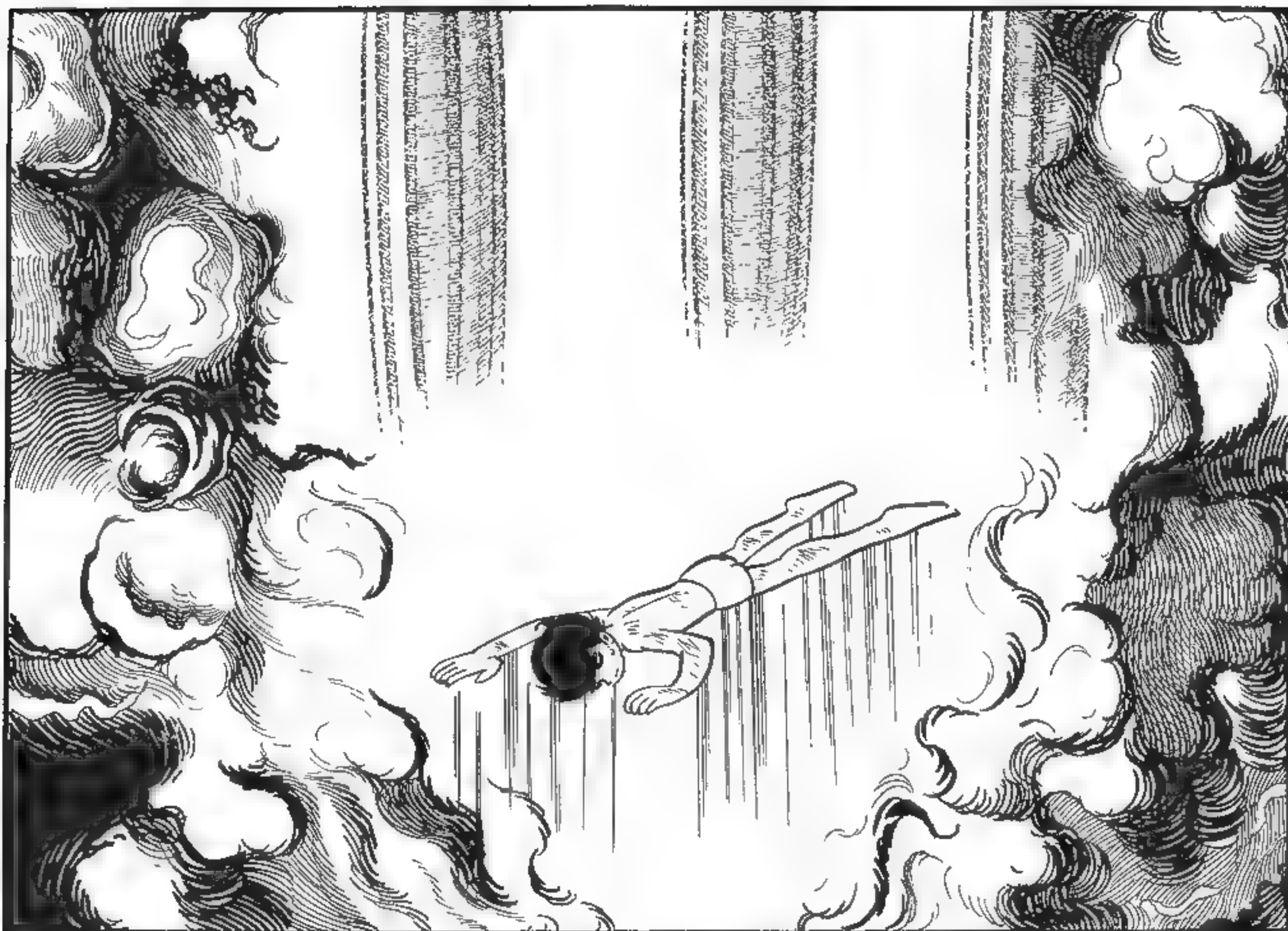


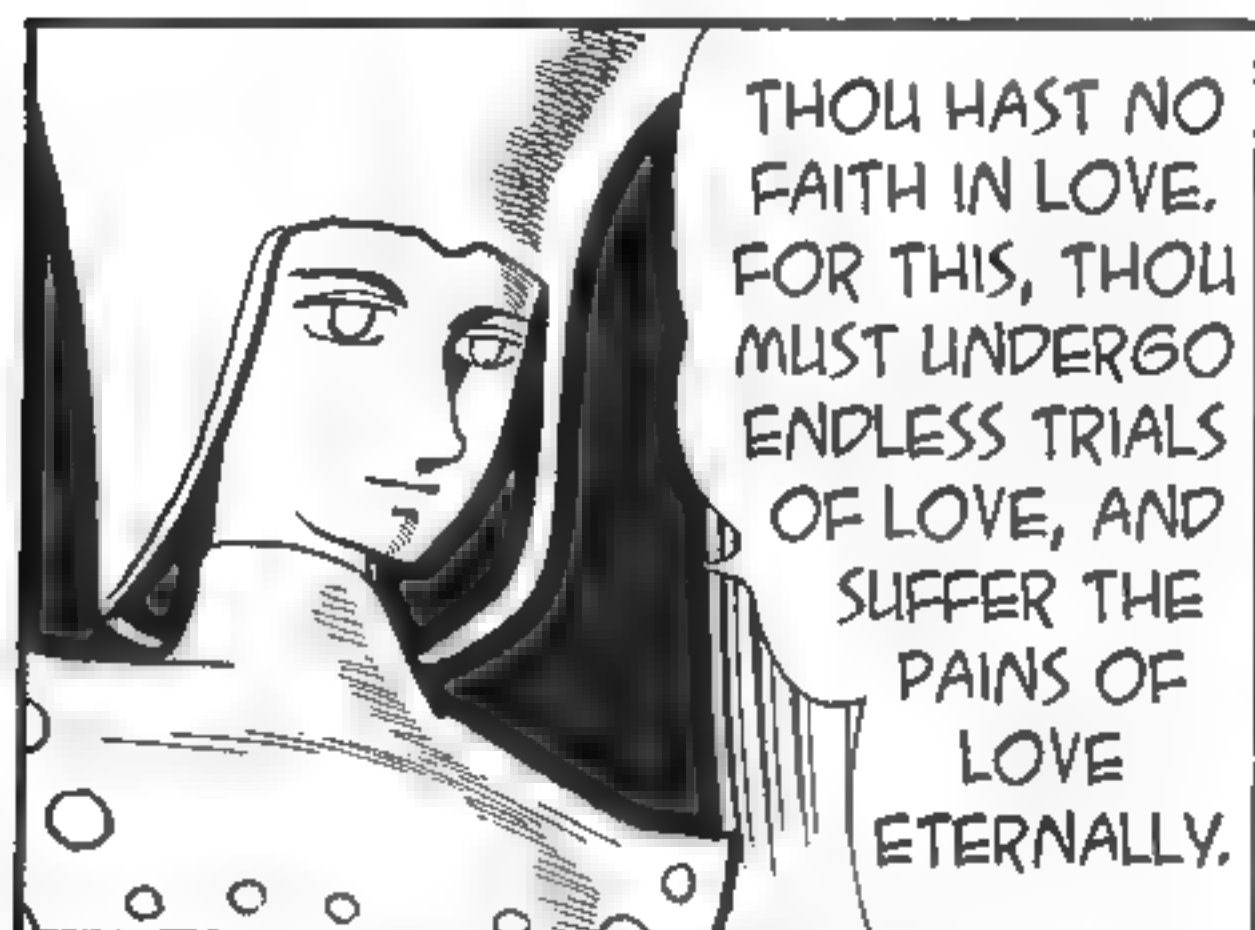








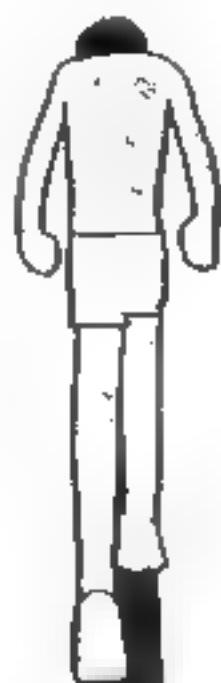


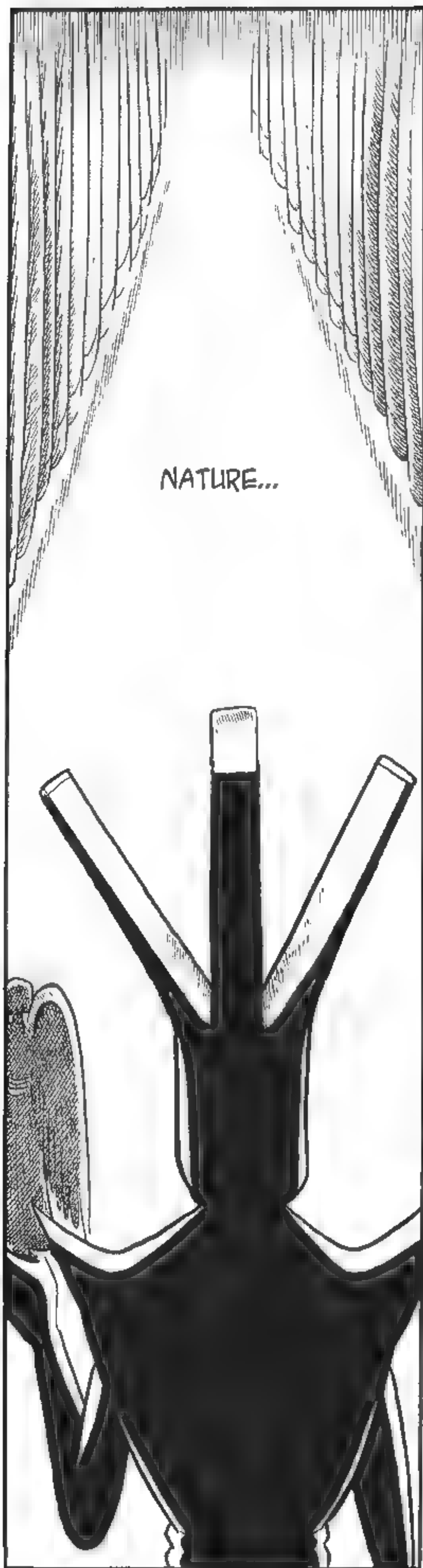


CAN I
AT LEAST
SEE HIROMI
JUST ONE
MORE TIME
?

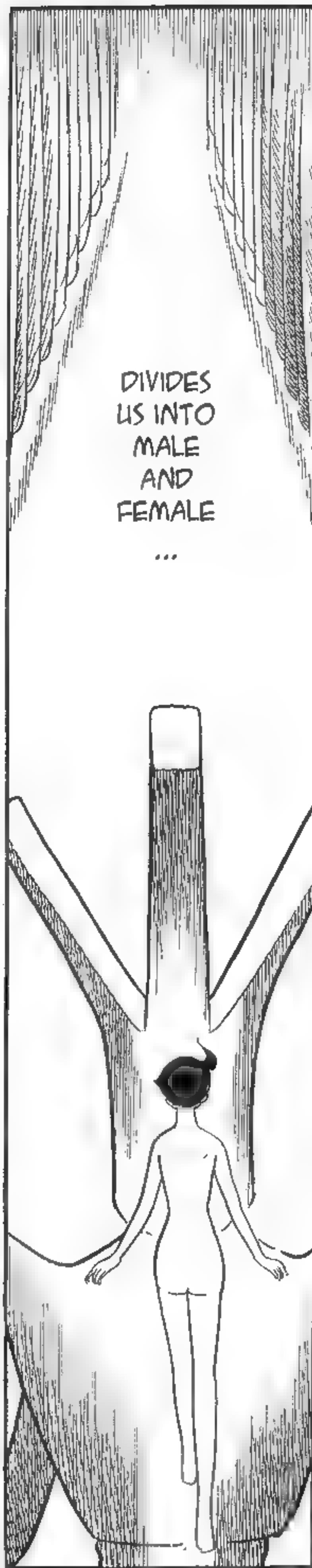


THOU SHALT
SEE HER
AGAIN SOON.
IN EVERY ERA,
IN EVERY
WORLD,
SHE SHALL
AWAIT THEE.



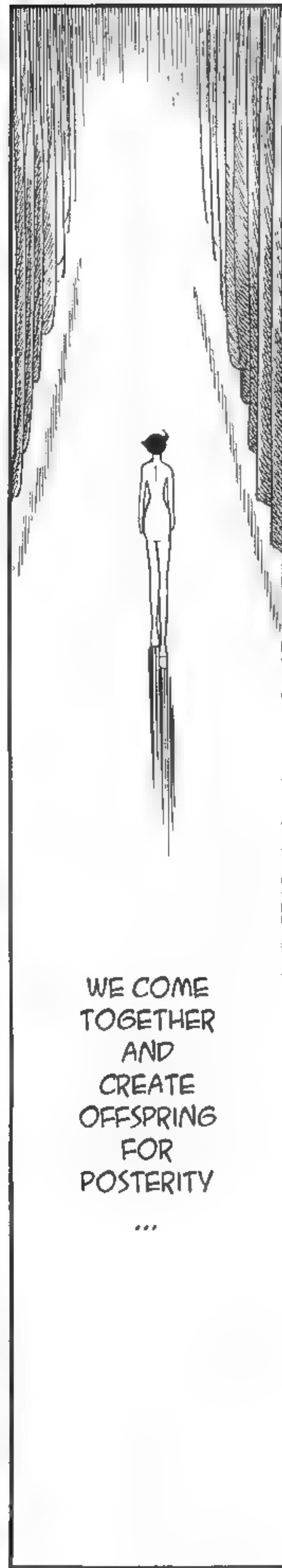


NATURE...



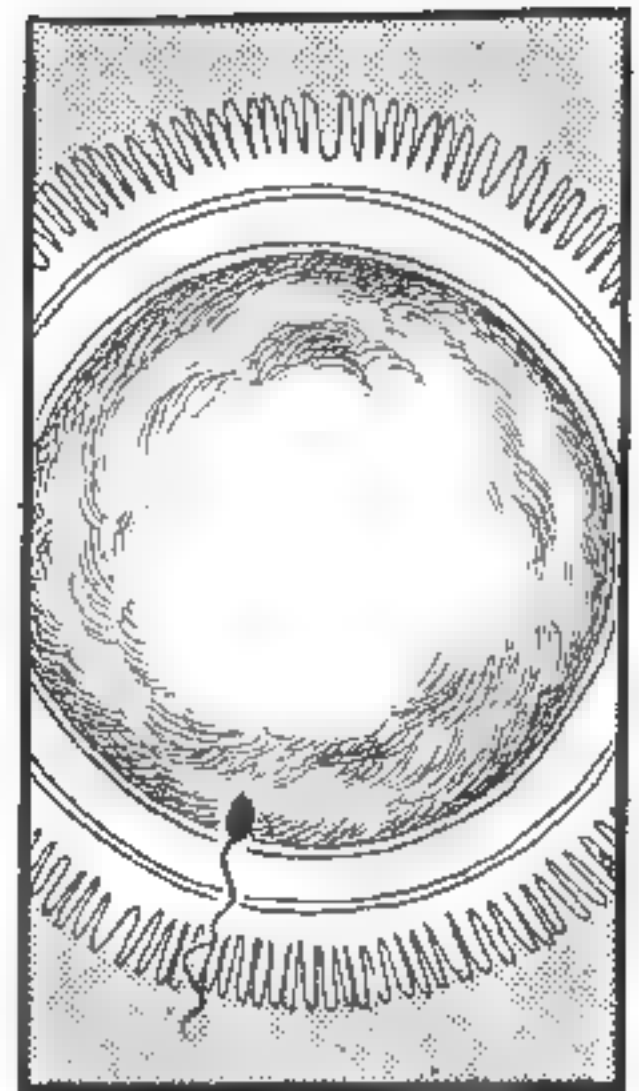
DIVIDES
US INTO
MALE
AND
FEMALE

...



WE COME
TOGETHER
AND
CREATE
OFFSPRING
FOR
POSTERITY

...



BETWEEN
MAN AND WOMAN,
MALE AND FEMALE.
WITHOUT THAT LOVE,
THE HISTORY OF
THE HUMAN RACE
WOULD HAVE ENDED
LONG AGO.



AS LONG AS
THE WORLD EXISTS,
MEN, WOMEN,
AND THE CHILDREN
THEY BEAR
WILL REPEAT
THIS ENDLESS DRAMA,
DAY AFTER DAY...

THE END

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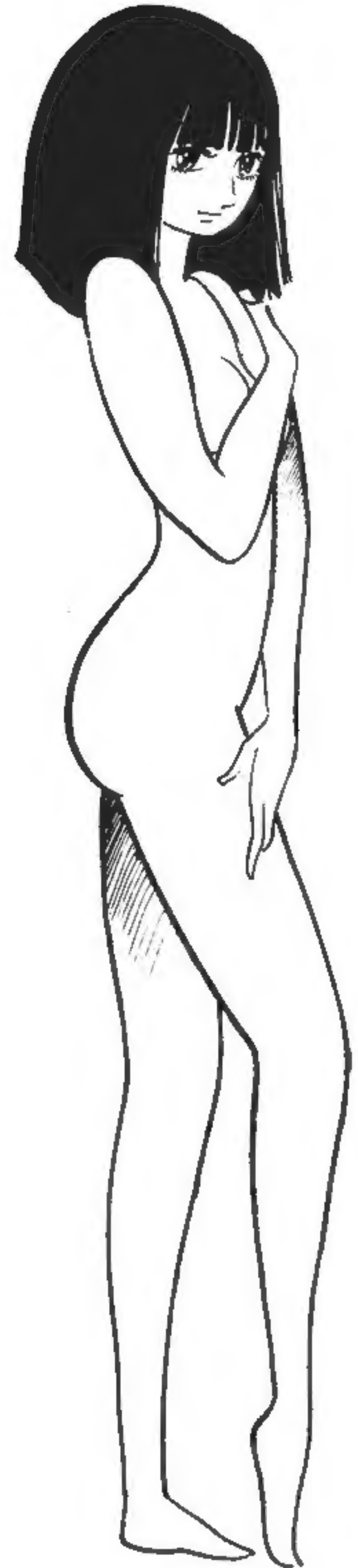
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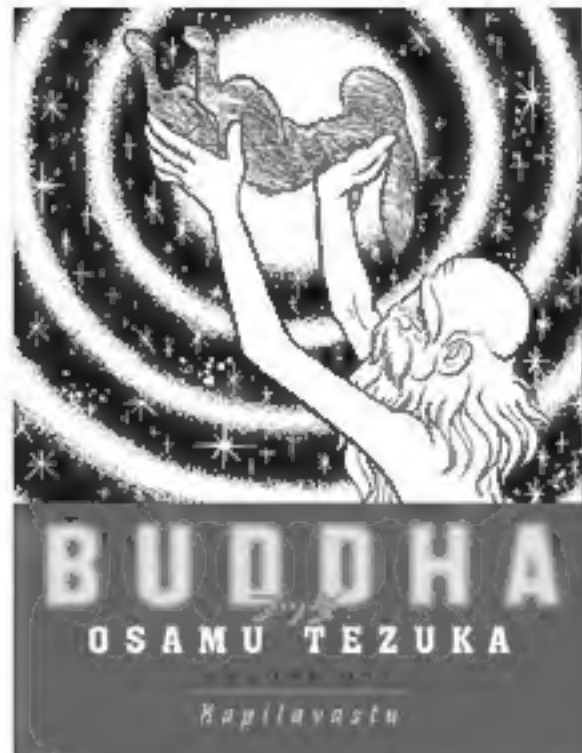
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"Paging through *Buddha* by Osamu Tezuka is revelatory, like hearing the Beatles for the first time." - **Rochester City Newspaper**

"His works deal with the most profound questions of human existence."
- **Publishers Weekly**

"One does not speak of Tezuka's weaknesses. There aren't any."
- **AnimeNewsNetwork.com**

Osamu Tezuka (1928-89) is the godfather of Japanese manga comics. He originally intended to become a doctor and earned his degree before turning to what was still then considered a frivolous medium. His many early masterpieces include the series known in the U.S. as *Astro Boy*. With his sweeping vision, deftly intertwined plots, and indefatigable commitment to human dignity, Tezuka elevated manga to an art form. Other works available from Vertical include the medical thriller *Ode to Kirihito* and the eight-volume epic *Buddha*, winner of the Eisner and Harvey Awards.

Cover design by Chip Kidd

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